

THE *Country* GUIDE

CANADA'S NATIONAL FARM MONTHLY

APPLIED SCIENCE READING ROOM

Bulls for Beef

Christmas at Driftwillow

High Energy Silage

THREE DAY LOAN

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6. Sugar Plums. A scrumptious strawberry-and-coconut confection, lovely to look at and easy to make.

7. Open Faced Chicken-Cranberry Sandwiches. Cut slices of cranberry jelly with cookie-cutters for the pretty garnish.

8. Christmas Delights. Heavenly-light meringue cases with a whipped-cream and peppermint-candy filling.

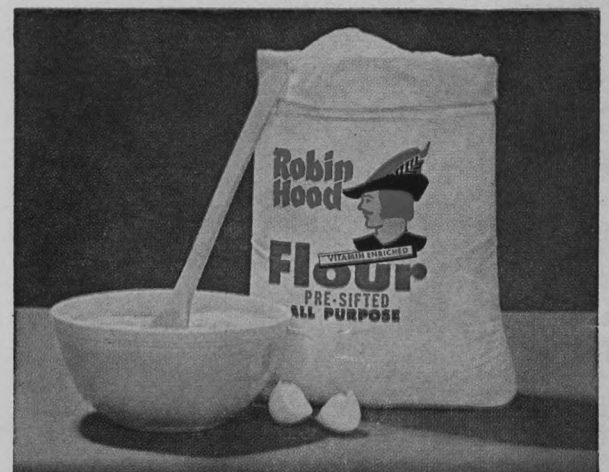
9. Christmas Bouquet of Relishes. Choose relishes for colour and contrast, and arrange to make a beautiful bouquet.

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THE Country GUIDE

Incorporating The Nor'West Farmer and Farm and Home
CANADA'S NATIONAL FARM MONTHLY

Editor: DON BARON

Associate Editors:

CLIFF FAULKNER—Calgary, Alta.
PETER LEWINGTON—London, Ont.
JIM BARNETT—Winnipeg, Man.

Home and Family Section:
ELVA FLETCHER
GWEN LESLIE

COVER: This month our cover features (appropriately we think) the spirit of Christmas in farm homes across Canada — that of the typical farm family.

Reunited for their traditional Christmas dinner is the James family of Portage la Prairie. Grandma and Grandpa on the left are Mr. and Mrs. John James who have farmed in the area since 1916. Almost hidden across the table is their son Kermit. His daughter Penny is on his left. Carving the turkey is grandson Ken Stewart. Ken, like many farm boys, now works in the city. He is on the Country Guide advertising staff. Ken's wife Becky is seen serving dinner. Beside her is the Stewarts' youngest son, Sandy, while their other son John is seated on the right nearest the camera.—Ayers photo

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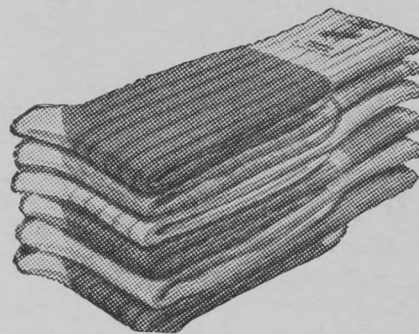
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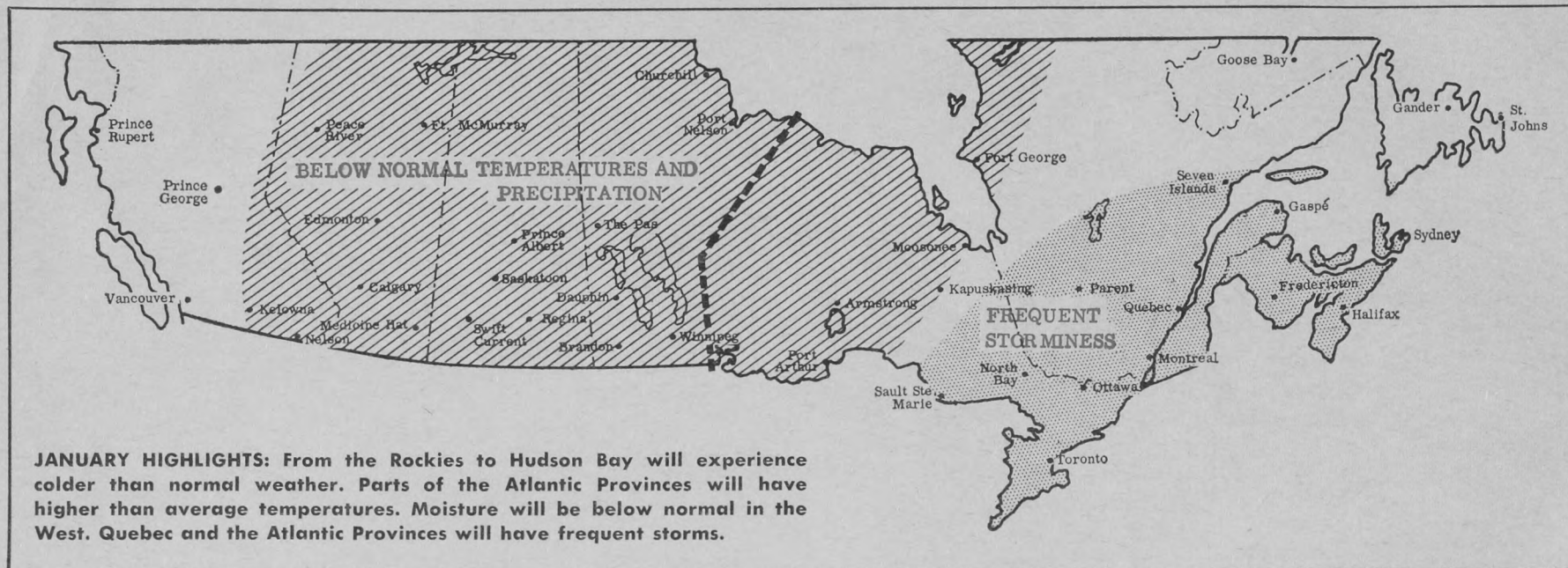
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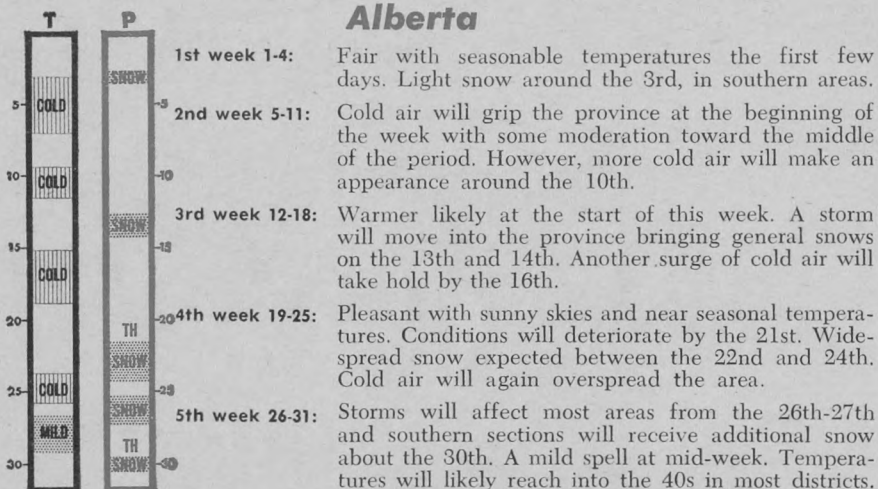


JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS: From the Rockies to Hudson Bay will experience colder than normal weather. Parts of the Atlantic Provinces will have higher than average temperatures. Moisture will be below normal in the West. Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces will have frequent storms.

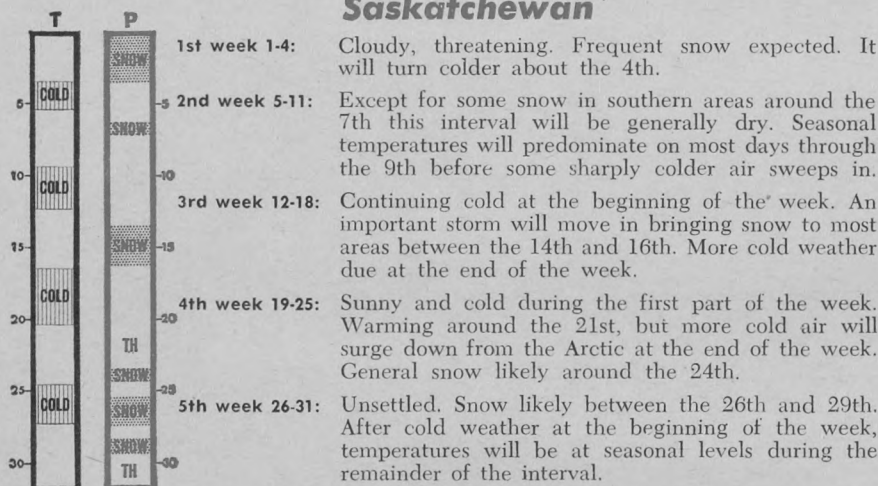
JANUARY 1964

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—Ed.)

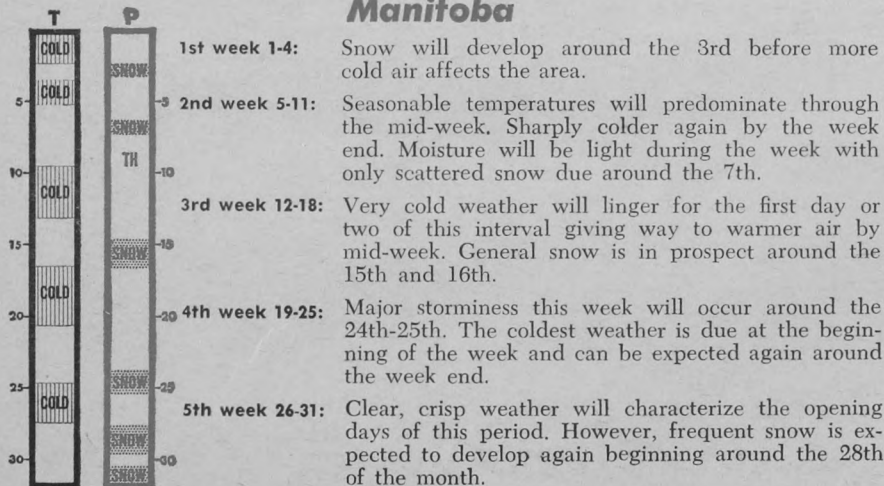
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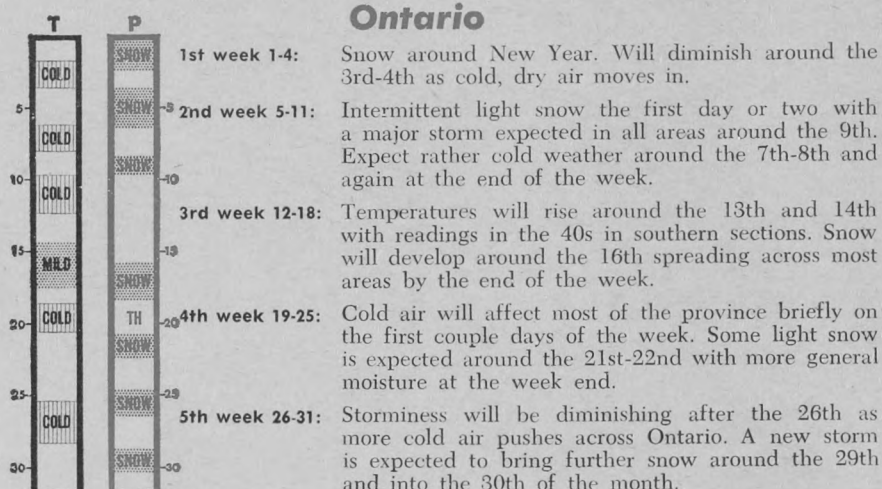
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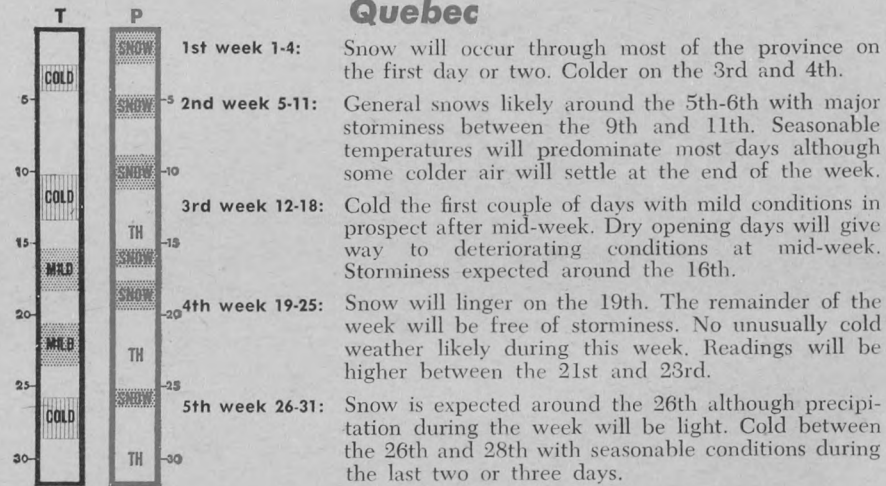
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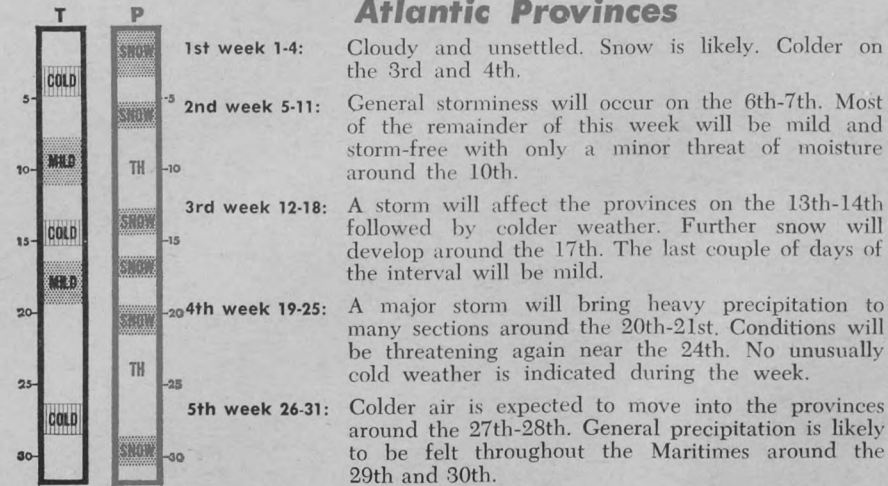
Ontario



Quebec



Atlantic Provinces



Key to Abbreviations: T, temperature; P, precipitation; CL, cooler; WM, warmer; TH, threatening; SH, showers; R-S, rain or snow.



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Editorials

More Corn "Ballyhoo"

ACCORDING to a weekly news report published in Ottawa by D. W. Carr and Associates, the increased interest that has been generated in corn in recent years has carried this crop into areas where it should never have been grown.

The Ottawa report states: "For most of Ontario's farm areas, it may be much cheaper to buy corn from Chatham or Des Moines than to produce it on the home farm. For most Ontario farmers, growing oats or mixed grains rather than corn for grain, will continue to be sound."

The writer of this surprising bit of information is entitled to his own opinion. If he prefers to advocate oats as a better crop for most Ontario farms than corn, that is his privilege. But the writer goes further and attributes much of the responsibility for this surge of interest in corn ("unlimited optimism for corn," he calls it) to farm papers. "Corn ballyhoo hurts some Ontario farmers," he states. "Farm papers have been promoting corn expansion without qualification. Indications are that this unbridled enthusiasm may already have hurt Ontario farmers in areas that are unsuitable for corn."

In effect, he suggests farm papers should be

blamed for misleading farmers. Undoubtedly he is referring to The Country Guide.

For several years, this magazine has been describing how farmers throughout the country, and particularly those in Eastern Canada, have been growing and using corn to reduce their costs of production, and boost their profits. Last spring, we featured corn in one issue. The Ottawa report notwithstanding, we make no apology to our readers for doing it.

The reason is that corn is here to stay. Corn acreage will continue to increase in this country, particularly in Ontario. A crop of corn will provide cheaper livestock feed than just about any other farm crop. It enables farmers to cut their livestock production costs.

If the Ottawa reporter in question would spend a few days traveling the countryside and visiting the farms visited by Country Guide editors in recent years; if he would call on the forage crops specialists and the soils specialists and the animal science specialists on whom we have called; or if he would read more closely the reports we have carried over the months, he would realize what is causing the surging interest in corn. When profit margins get low, farmers must search for ways to make more money. Corn can help them do it. It can help

cut costs on beef, and dairy and poultry and hog farms.

If he had checked further, too, he would have been more careful in suggesting that the corn crop was limited in adaptability to a few small parts of Ontario. He would have learned that corn is being grown with great success on many farms in his own Ottawa Valley, 400 miles northeast of the heartland area of Chatham. He might have read in the September issue of The Guide, where corn was grown successfully in Quebec only 25 miles from Ottawa's Parliament Buildings, on "poor" land.

If he checked, as our Field Editor Peter Lewington did, with the specialists in the Crops Science Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, he would have learned from Dr. Stan Young that while Ontario grew a million acres of corn last year, the potential is four times that.

It's true that 1963 was a disappointing year to many corn growers, especially those who grew it for the first time. The reason for this is explained in detail in a report in this issue of The Guide. It wasn't because the farm papers misled farmers.

The reason, as Peter Lewington reports, is that new growers didn't follow the recipe.

Corn has been a money-maker for farmers. It will be more of a money-maker in the future.

The Ottawa report may take temporary glee in carping at some of the faltering steps that go along with progress. For our part, at The Guide, we intend to go right on "ballyhooing" corn. We'll have further reports this winter of farms where corn is being used with success. Corn can be useful and profitable to farmers. That's reason enough for us. V

Are Prairie Hog Boards Coming?

THE marketing board issue is bubbling vigorously this winter. In Western Canada, particularly, there is growing evidence that this may be the year of fulfillment. Hog boards are the ones at issue. These have been under study by farm groups for several years. Farmers Unions, particularly, have advocated their establishment. Every effort made so far to achieve this aim has failed. But things could be different this year.

The Farmers Unions of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have presented plans for marketing boards to their respective governments. They have also set up a Co-ordinating Committee and MFU President Herb Andresen expresses the hope that votes on the proposed plans in the three provinces will coincide. The ultimate aim, he says, is to establish a central selling agency which would operate inter-provincially. This would require enabling legislation from the federal government, but, in the view of Andresen, it would put hog marketing back on a truly competitive basis.

If any prairie hog marketing boards are to come into existence, their proponents have plenty of opposition to break down. There is more than apathy — there is outright fear and distrust of boards through the region.

But the board idea got an assist from unusual quarters in recent days. President A. J. E. Child of Intercontinental Packers stated he would "welcome a marketing board which would institute an auction system whereby the hogs would go to the highest bidder." He made the point that too many Saskatchewan hogs go out of the province for slaughter. He claimed that in many cases the net return to

the farmer for those hogs would have been greater if the hogs had been killed in the province. He said that a hog board financed by, and managed for the province's farmers would be obliged to direct its hogs wherever the net returns would be the highest.

This is a strong boost for the hog board idea. It points up the view of The Country Guide that opposition to most marketing boards is based on misconception rather than fact. Opponents are afraid that boards will interfere with a farmer's freedom to manage his own farm and to develop and expand his farm enterprises; that boards will serve the purpose of sheltering small and inefficient farm enterprises from the rough rules of economics.

Maybe boards could be designed to do these things. But they don't have to. Ontario's hog marketing board is a good example. It has simply strengthened the producers' bargaining position in the market. It has done this by providing that hogs are sold to the highest bidder. It has represented producers much as the Canadian Wheat Board looks after the interests of prairie wheat growers. In essence, it places no on-farm restrictions on the producer. It eliminates many marketing costs.

The Ontario Hog Board has created an orderly marketing system in which buyers must compete through price, in the market place.

As prairie farmers consider the proposals for a hog marketing board that are likely to be laid before them in the months ahead, we recommend that they keep this clearly in mind. If governments will provide the legislation, and farmers will provide the leadership and the imagination to make wise use of the legislation, marketing boards can be a useful force in helping farm people ensure their own welfare and that of their industry. V

Try Now — Vote Later!

ONTARIO may be on the verge of another step forward in the development of its marketing board program. At its annual meeting in mid-November, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture unanimously agreed to petition the province's Minister of Agriculture to implement certain marketing plans on a trial basis, without the necessity of a producer vote. In effect, it wants a "Try now—vote later," plan. Behind the resolution is the thought "Can you judge a scheme fairly and objectively before you have a chance to see it?"

Art Musgrave, OFA president, told delegates, "It is inconceivable that a plan would be introduced for any commodity without the support of the group involved. The basic trend of modern business is 'Before you invest—investigate'. 'Try, before you buy' or 'Satisfaction or money refunded'. Experience will prove whether or not a marketing plan is working to the benefit of producers. Then an informed vote can be taken."

Events moved swiftly in the wake of the motion, which was without parallel in Ontario. Musgrave announced the following day that the Minister of Agriculture would be asked to implement such a plan for eggs. The reactions of producers, Federation leaders and spokesmen for the Department of Agriculture indicate that the green light will be given to the proposed egg plan . . . if!

- Obviously the government will have to satisfy itself that most producers want a plan. It will test the uncharted waters of a plan-without-a-vote as cautiously as a bather taking an early summer dip in the lake.

- A vote would have to be taken in a marketing climate as nearly normal as possible. At today's price levels producers would probably reject a plan even though it might be their salvation in leaner days. As one producer phrased it, "Do we always have to wait for blue ruin before taking the necessary constructive action?" (Please turn to page 41)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Our Readers

What's Happening

PESTICIDE BAN NOT COMPLETE

The Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association reports that there has been some confusion regarding the new pesticide regulations in Manitoba. It notes that while aldrin and dieldrin may not be used under some conditions in the province, these pesticides can still be used for seed dressings and for vegetable crops. This includes their use in seed dressings for cereal grains; soil applications for control of wireworms, cutworms, white grubs and soil maggots in crops such as potatoes, turnips, cabbage and cauliflower; and foliage application for vegetable crops.

The new Manitoba regulations do state that dieldrin or aldrin cannot be used on fields on which forage crops, cereal crops or oil seed crops are seeded or growing. Nor can they be used on pasture land, road allowances, drainage ditches or on rights of way used for public purposes or for public utilities or wasteland. V

REPORT ON TOBACCO SALES

A crisis in unsold tobacco brought Ontario Government financial backing for 24 million pounds of surplus tobacco earlier this year. This tobacco is now piled up in warehouses, unsold. A 5-man Federal-Provincial trade mission is attempting to sell it, and also to create a long-term solution, through export sales.

The mission wooed the tobacco industry in Poland, Russia, Austria, Bulgaria, Egypt, Israel, France and Britain. Tobacco is not an easy product to sell and Canada has lagged far behind the U.S. and Rhodesia in creating overseas markets.

Each potential purchasing country visited by the mission, was given samples of 35 different grades of tobacco, and also samples of the types of cigarettes which each tobacco tends to produce. This is the first time that such a concerted effort has been made. A probable recommendation of the Tobacco Trade Mission will be to arrange continuity of supply in the event that anticipated sales do in fact materialize.

Meanwhile, sale of the 1963 crop opened on an encouraging note. For the first time since the inception of the Ontario Flue-cured Marketing Board in 1958, there were no negotiated minimum grade prices.

The Federal Government has offered to support sales at 47 cents a pound. Opening day sales were well above this figure and very little of the tobacco offered remained unsold. V

SAFER CHEMICALS ON THE WAY

New pesticides are being developed which will prove to be more selective, according to Dr. E. Y. Spencer, of the University of Western Ontario's Chemistry Department. Speaking to students and representatives of Agriculture at the University of Alberta, Calgary, Dr. Spencer said that researchers have found they

can produce chemicals which have a low mammalian toxicity and a high insect toxicity by adding a methyl group to the structure of many existing products.

For instance, it is known that certain enzymes in mammals work to protect the animals from toxic materials. When a methyl group is added to the makeup of some of these products, the chemical is changed into a form (hydrolized) which promotes enzyme formation. At the same time, there are substances in many forms of insect life that oxidize these chemicals and make them even more toxic. This gives us a weapon which will knock out insects and leave animals unharmed.

Said Dr. Spencer: "By using a close relative of DDT we will even

be able to control Dutch elm disease and still keep our robins. But these newer chemicals are more expensive. Communities will find they'll have to spend a bit more money."

Referring to the Rachel Carson controversy, he pointed out that more people in the United States die from taking aspirin (mostly children) than from pesticides. There are over 300 undesirable insect pests in Canada and only 13 of these have been successfully controlled by biological means. But he gave the writer credit for the fact that more people are now reading the instructions on the label. If she had dropped the prosecutor role in her book and discussed both sides of the question, hardly anyone would have read it.

Dr. Spencer mentioned the good work being done by World Health Organization in malaria control by spraying the mosquitoes that FAO is breeding by extending irrigation areas in the hot countries.

In closing, he deplored the lack of co-operation in this country in the

banning of chemicals considered too dangerous. Often nothing is done in Canada for 6 months after a material has been ruled unfit to use on feed-stuffs in the United States. Even then, possibly only one or two provinces will post restrictions on it because our provinces vary widely in this field of regulation.—C.V.F. V

NO EGG PAYMENT

No deficiency payment will be made for eggs this year. The Agricultural Stabilization Board announces that the average price received by producers for Grade A large eggs for the year ending September 30, 1963, was 36.8 cents per dozen which is higher than the 34-cent support price. V

FARMERS, PACKERS MUST CO-OPERATE

Livestock producers and processors must work more closely together in the future in such matters as beef carcass grades and a more active pro- (Please turn to page 40)



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- 9 Padded bracket holds discharge auger in transit.
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GUIDE POSTS

UP-TO-DATE
FARM MARKET
FORECASTS

SPEED-UP OF WHEAT DELIVERIES from farm to elevator will be necessary, at least after the New Year, to keep pipe lines full. Fall exports have been most encouraging and total for season could topple the 600 million bushel mark.

FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES are large in relation to probable use, so we can expect a sharp increase in carryover stocks to near-record levels at the end of the crop year.

HOG PRICES are likely to remain lower during the next 6 months than for the comparable period a year ago. This reflects the increased supplies anticipated both in Canada and the United States.

BARLEY SUPPLIES in commercial positions are some 50 per cent larger than a year ago. With prices considerably lower than last season both exports and domestic use have shown good gains.

LOWER APPLE PRICES are in prospect. With a record crop this season and stiff competition for export markets, consumers will have to bite hard into the raw product to clear the market. Use of apple juice will remain large, benefiting from high citrus fruit prices.

POTATO CROPS have turned out much better than indicated early in the fall. Total North American supplies are now about the same as last year. Prices will likely remain draggy until spring.

DURUM WHEAT EXPORTS are well ahead of last year's good showing and should continue to gain throughout the year. Nevertheless, stockpiles will mount even higher this season due to the large 1963 crop.

OAT PRICES have been attractive to buyers and disappearance is brisk. Marketings, while below a year ago, have been large enough to keep a generous amount in commercial positions to meet export requirements as well as the needs of eastern feeders.

FED CATTLE PRICES will likely remain relatively stable, with possibly some strength toward the winter's end. Considering lower feeder cattle prices this fall, along with more favorable feed prices, profits on feedlot operations should be moderately good.

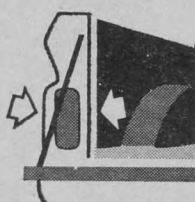
FARM INCOME, especially in the Prairie region, will be at record levels, and this will be reflected in higher land prices this season. Improvements to existing holdings and the use of more fertilizer, etc., may pay better than buying more land.

Some important information for every man who will need a new truck within the next 12 months

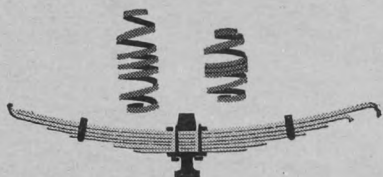


New Chevrolets are a lot more truck than your money bought the last time. Here are some of the things that have been done to give you more value for practically the same investment.

Double-wall construction. This feature of Chevrolet cabs and the Fleetside pickup body has many advantages — here are two. Insulation and sound-deadening material is sandwiched between the two layers of steel in the cab roof to give you more comfort; in the body, the inner wall acts as a buffer against load damage, preserving the outer appearance of the truck. Other insulation includes full undercoating of the cab floor, and a thick woven cotton fibre pad for the underside of the cowl chamber.



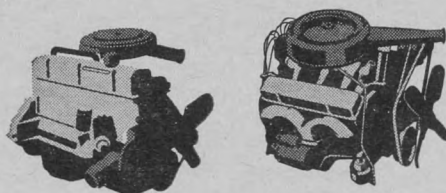
Suspension to fit the truck. Instead of making one type of suspension system do for the whole truck line, we now have different types and combinations of springing designed for your particular needs.



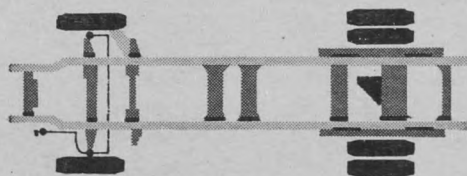
Conventional half- and three-quarter ton models have independent front suspension with variable pitch coils in the rear.

Mediums and heavies have I-beam front suspension with variable-rate leaf springs.

This variable-rate leaf-type suspension automatically stiffens as the load increases — and vice versa.



The right engine. Chevrolet has been building truck engines since 1918 but never has it been in a better position to give you the type and size you need. Today there are many different capacities of gasoline and diesel Chevrolet truck engines — fours, sixes, V8s.



Stronger frames. Every conventional 1964 Chevrolet truck has a ladder-type frame. Formerly used on heavier trucks only, this type is more resilient, better able to give with the load and terrain, to stand up under stress.



Quality trucks always cost less!

Greater model selection. This time you're going to find it a simple matter to pick the exact type of Chevrolet truck for the kind of work you do. In delivery trucks, for instance, in addition to regular panels and pickups, there is a full range of 4-wheel drive units to take care of those cross-country chores.



Have you seen the '64 El Camino deluxe pickup yet? We think it's the best looking commercial vehicle ever built. This is a dual-purpose vehicle that works like a truck all day — and looks like a sassy passenger car come evening.

In the medium- and heavy-duty area there are tilt cabs, low-cab-forward and conventional cab units to suit almost any requirement — including school bus bodies of up to 66 passenger capacity.

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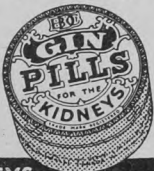


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TWEDDLE FARMS - Fergus, Ontario

Report from Ottawa...

Flash-in-the-Pan Wheat Sales?

Despite increasing U.S. competition for our wheat markets Canada is expected to hold the edge in the long-term wheat exporting field

by **ROBERT MOON**
Press Gallery, Ottawa

THERE are strong indications that Canada's world wheat exports will not dip below 300,000,000 bushels a year in the foreseeable future.

This is a new era for Canadian agriculture. The food shipments to Communist countries from the West, with Canada the major participant, represent a major victory.

Communist agricultural policies and production have failed. A big new factor emerging now is the hungry maw of the satellite nations of Eastern Europe. This is the market the Canadian Government feels will endure and outlast China and Russia. Hunger is no longer a tolerable condition in these countries. The people are affluent enough to buy. They are demanding that their state trading establishments do exactly that. All but Rumania have done so this year.

This adds up to a massive turning point for Canadian wheat exports. They will not always be as high as they are this year and perhaps will be for the next 2 years. But they will in all probability be higher than they ever were over a sustained period.

Trade Minister Mitchell Sharp last month suggested the semi-arid regions of east-central Russia, the so-called virgin lands, are similar in many respects to Canada's prairie Palliser triangle, with one difference: The Russians don't appear to have mastered the techniques of producing grain successfully under such conditions. Indeed, they are going to use more fertilizer.

It is by no means certain that sizeable wheat exports can be made to the Soviet Union every year, even if the next 2 years offer good markets there. What appears more likely is that the sporadic shipments across the Pacific and into Vladivostok and eastern Siberia will become annual events. The Russians have long been aware that it is cheaper to move grain into their Siberian reaches from Canada than overland by rail from the Ukraine or the new agricultural lands. Further pressure on those resources will enhance the advantage of bringing in constant supplies of Canadian wheat in the east.

Stiffer U.S. Competition

At the same time, Canada may well face continuing export competition from the United States for the Russian market. The Americans have had a taste of these sales potentials. They will remember this when the current burst of Russian buying ends.

The same cannot be said of Communist China, which Canada feels offers a larger continuing future potential than Russia. The Americans

are not selling to the Chinese now. The domestic political pressures against it are great, especially so because of the U.S. agreement to sell to Russia. It now appears likely that the Chinese market, if it continues, will be open to competition, chiefly between Canada and Australia, but not to the United States.

More important, it appears the Chinese market will still be open for Canadian sales of sizeable quantities after the current 3-year agreement ends. This may also lead to a Canadian adjustment in its own protective measures on imports competitive with Canadian production. This could well be the field in which some of the external wheat negotiation competition may rest, along with the terms of credit.

Certainly, the Canadian protective structure has come into play in the Japanese negotiations for prairie wheat. Japan proved the first major new post-Second World War market.

In latter years, there has been a leveling off of these exports to the Japanese. They rose rapidly but for the past several years they have fluctuated in the 40-50 millions range. Last year the total was down from the previous 2 years. Because the expectation, spurred by the statements of the Japanese themselves, has been for an even larger market, this leveling off could open up some questions. One of these could be the impact of the Canadian market for Japanese goods, which includes the Canadian tariff and quota structure.

Europe and its Common Market open up still another question, as yet not fully answered. Canadian negotiators at the Geneva talks on GATT and on the proposed U.S. tariff reductions have been and will be pressing for easier agricultural access. At worst, Canadian wheat producers will fare better than those of any other export country. Their wheat is very hard and very well known.

However, some European countries will want easier access to Canada in return. Still another factor is the Canadian feeling that some obligation rests on Europe to bring its own farm methods and prices into line with the rest of the world. Obviously, this would lead to a better competitive advantage for Canada, with its economically produced wheat.

The domestic political resistance to agricultural rationalization remains in Germany, where wheat prices are highest. Yet even there farms are gradually becoming larger, though it will be many years before the protective pressures are eased. France wants easier wheat access to the Common Market nations, especially Germany.

Surprisingly, good prospects exist for gradual development of Canadian wheat sales to France, along with Italy. These sales have improved since the Common Market agricultural regulations threw wheat importation open to the private trade. Previously, it was under strict government control. Especially did the French government do everything possible to restrict consumer use to domestic grain.

Much depends on the future of Common Market pricing policies. If it is high enough, it will give stimulus to European production, thereby putting pressure on sales. But Canada has been selling quite a large volume of durum to France. With wheat-producing North Africa no longer a possession, the French turn more and more to Canada when they need outside supplies. With the private trade freer to satisfy its own wants, millers are expected to want to build up the quality of their flour.

New Agreement?

Also, official French government sources at ministerial level told The Country Guide that France wants a new world wheat agreement with a substantially higher price for Canada. The French idea is that a higher world price would help eliminate subsidies while giving freer play to normal supply and demand reactions.

Although higher European living standards mean higher meat consumption, the demand may arise for a higher bread standard. This, in turn, would stimulate the need for quality wheat. That is why the Canadian competitive advantage may be further enhanced, although the Americans are also in the field.

In France, this prospect did not exist as long as the government was the sole importer. In Italy there is the possibility of more bread wheat going in as a mix with semolina. The Italian government has given up its complete hold on imports. In Italy, even more than in France, rising living standards may spur demand for quality wheat. Increased Canadian wheat exports will not come overnight. What has spurred hopes is the growth since the end of government controls. And even the internally competitive French soft wheat requires harder wheat from abroad for milling qualities.

Canadian sources in Europe have found European "millers do not want to change horses in midstream." They have become accustomed to top quality Canadian wheat in their baking blends. The whole continent is geared to it. Other factors being equal, European millers will choose Canadian wheat. In the face of U.S.

(Please turn to page 40)

Why Beef Improvement Lags

According to:

- Purebred breeders — "There is more than carcass quality to consider."
- Commercial cattlemen—"We need carcass evaluation figures."
- Feedlot operators — "Packer's buying methods thwart us."
- Packers—"Excessive fat ruins carcasses."
- Retailers—"Housewives are confused."
- Researchers — "We need measurements of quality traits."

Cliff Faulknor reports highlights of the 2nd Co-ordinated Beef Improvement Conference in Nebraska

IF researchers ever do find a simple method of selecting the "Steer of Tomorrow" (The Country Guide, February 1962) the beef industry will still have a long road to travel to win widespread acceptance of this superior product. Purebred men, commercial men, feeders, packers and retailers all say they'd like to see a better beef animal, but nobody wants to be the first to break with the "so round, so firm, so fully packed" tradition. Many agree the deadlock won't be broken until buyers are willing to pay a premium price for what they claim they're looking for.

Here is what the various segments of the industry had to say about beef improvement.

Purebred Breeders

Although the purebred breeders recognize that they have the primary responsibility for developing animals with better carcasses, they pointed out that a breeder must consider other economic traits as well. These are (1) fertility, (2) mothering ability, (3) rate of gain, (4) economy of gain, (5) conformation (as it contributes to meat quality and percentage of red meat), and (6) longevity. This is necessary if all segments of the beef industry are to operate at a profit.

For instance, an animal with a high percentage of tender lean meat might delight the packer, but it won't help the commercial breeder or the feedlot operator if it gained slowly, or ran up a heavy feed bill before it reached marketable weight. If these people are unable to make a profit, then the whole industry will suffer.

The purebred men believe it's possible to breed a superior type of animal that has all these traits and good carcass quality too. But the researcher must first provide them with a "tool" so they can identify the breeding stock which will produce a superior product. This will have to be a simple comparison which is easy to understand and not too hard to obtain.

Once this animal has been identified, there must be a cash incentive to produce it. As one breeder put it, "the extra value of the carcass must show in the price structure from individual retailers to individual packers, from individual packers to individual feeders, from individual feeders to individual commercial producers and from individual commercial producers to individual purebred breeders."

Commercial Cattlemen

Speaking as a commercial producer, Carl A. Martin, Jr., Menard, Texas, agreed with this. "Historically, profit is what motivates most of us to do better," he said. "I have been weighing and keeping some record of my cattle for many years, and started getting a little carcass information in

1958. This information has shown that good management, coupled with rigid selection and culling in the breeding herd, pays off in per cent calf crop weaned, weaning weight and calf quality. All these factors have a bearing on my profit. But weaning weight and rate of gain figures only tell us how fast and economically our cattle can reach a desirable weight. We are selling lean, red meat. We need carcass evaluation figures to complete our records."

Commercial men are learning the value of having a good record of individual animals. They would like to see purebred breeders supply complete information on the bulls they sell. They also recommended that the Agricultural Marketing Service and other research organizations continue their studies to develop a beef grading system which will give a better indication of true carcass value.

Feedlot Operators

Cattle feeder Dave Wilhelm from Brighton, Colorado, put the onus on the packer buyer.

"The first smoke screen that hides the truth is the current method of buying fat cattle by the packer buyer," he said. "He buys on the grade of beef and the yield of dressed meat from the live animal weight. With the packer buying on yield, our efforts in the feedlot are thwarted. The so-called yield varies directly with the length of time an animal is on feed—the higher the yield, the longer the feeding period. This longer feeding period produces poorer conversion and greater fat coverage."

Because their part of the industry depends on a continually increasing supply of cattle which produce economical gains and high grading carcasses, feeders recommend that performance testing and live evaluation research be continued on breeding stock. They also asked producers to market cattle at lighter weights with desirable finish, quality and grade, and to market them as soon as they reach their grade to avoid excessive fat trim and an over-supply of heavy cattle.

The Packers

Said Otto Florence, Jr., Independent Meat Co., Twin Falls, Idaho: "We do have many beef animals available that should yield superior carcasses if properly handled throughout the production period. However, a great many of these will never reach market or slaughter at their peak of superiority. Excessive fat cover has ruined more superior beef carcasses than any other single factor. But, because the packer is the middleman, he must buy and slaughter all the beef produced. More often we can't be selective, we have to take what's offered."

As an industry, the packers offered to cooperate fully in providing carcass data for breeders and feeders. They endorsed these two standards of carcass quality: Two square inches of rib-eye, and 1/10 of an inch fat on the rib-eye for every 100 lb. of carcass weight. They also asked for more research on the value of meat marbling. There was some doubt that marbling was an indicator of tenderness and flavor, or that the consumer placed much value on it.

The Retailers

Wayne S. Bartley, Manager, Meat Department, Hinky Dinky Supermarkets, Omaha, Nebraska, gave his views on the kind of beef that will have to be produced to compete successfully on tomorrow's beef market.

"The picture of marketing is changing," he said, "not only in beef, but in all agriculture. Marketing is coming more and more to stress regularity, uniformity and reliability of product. These are sharply at odds with normal conditions of small-farm agriculture. Beef is still pretty close to being a product of nature. It's sold with all the variability, perishability and unpredictability of a natural product. But the time will come when all beef cuts will be packaged at the packing plant and sold at retail by coin-operated machines. Each cut will be neatly trimmed. A lot of fat will go. Quality specifications will be on the label. Meat will be non-perishable as by irradiation, or will be dispensed frozen."

"Why is meat such a problem? Largely because a housewife is confused when she gets meat of one level of tenderness today and another level of tenderness tomorrow. She doesn't have the standards to guide her that she has in groceries, frozen foods and dairy products."

A couple of features of merchandising complicate the problem of producing a standardized product for the consumer, retail representatives pointed out. One is that retailers don't have identical needs as to the kind of beef. They serve different clientele and have different merchandising policies. The second is that it would be too time-consuming and costly to provide the detailed evaluation of each carcass necessary to guide the producer in his efforts to produce a standard meat-type beef animal.

The Researchers

The meat research section of the industry stated that they wouldn't give their unqualified recommendation to any of the present known systems of appraising live animals, though each contributes something beyond eye appraisal. They asked for continuing efforts to find a better method. Because young bull carcasses have shown they're superior in meatiness and economy of production, researchers asked for a more thorough appraisal of the palatability of this beef. And that the relationship of maturity to palatability be given more study. Adequate objective measurements of beef quality traits are also still needed, they concluded.

The Conference agreed excess fat was the beef industry's number one problem. It also recognized that it has many hurdles to jump before it can be resolved. As in Canada, they are still having their fat stock shows, and fatty, low-grade carcasses are still walking off with many of the prizes. V



Marnie McQuoid teaches the girls practical home-making skills in this smartly efficient kitchen. They help to keep cake and cookie containers full.



Marnie's major interests are her husband and family but she still takes time to enjoy such varied interests as music, mosaics and books.



A one-time window got a new use as a niche-like recess. A shelf almost always holds a seasonal bouquet. Marnie made this bouquet from autumn leaves and grasses in brown and gold tones.



[Guide photos

By joining two small houses, the Don McQuoids, Estlin, Sask., acquired the larger home they needed.

Marnie McQuoid the Wife . . .

Two Houses -- One Home

ELVA FLETCHER

Home Editor

SOME farm people choose to build new, larger homes to meet the needs of growing families. Others, such as the Don McQuoids, solve the problem of more living space for themselves by more imaginative methods.

Marnie and Don looked at a lot of new homes. But Marnie wasn't sure she could be really happy in a brand new house. After a lot of thought they decided to buy an older house from neighbors two-and-a-half miles away and add it to the farm home that had been built in 1903.

Marnie laughs about it now. "We didn't have any particular plan when we started. We just moved the house. Then we began to plan. Don always says that if something doesn't fit, he'll make it fit and that's just what he did."

The result is a 4-bedroom home of white siding that is both spacious and gracious. Marnie likes it because it began its new life for them with the lived-in feeling that comes from years of association with earlier generations. It has a full basement and new windows. With the water pressure system that was installed three years ago, they have everything they need and want in a home.

By combining the two houses, the McQuoids found themselves with a home 46 feet long by 30 feet wide. This gave them a living room 22 feet by 24 feet which is the overall dimensions of the house they bought. The living room in the old house became a combination sewing room and den. More recently it became their herdsman's bedroom.

The master bedroom is the same size as the living room. "It's big," Marnie admits, "but it's wonderful when family comes to visit because we just turn it over to them."

BEFORE they started to decorate, Marnie had decided upon easy-care surfaces wherever possible. The living room is a good example. For this room she chose plywood paneling in driftwood design for the walls and weldtex squares for the ceiling. Instead of broadloom they laid embossed linoleum.

The living room size is such that it takes chesterfield and chairs comfortably as well as the piano that is one of Marnie's prize possessions. Music is important to the McQuoids. According to Marnie, she plays mostly for her own amusement.

The children take lessons and one of them is studying violin.

They added an S-shaped mosaic coffee table that they made themselves. Marnie explained that she and Don had admired a similar table in a Regina department store but its price was such that they decided to make their own. It's in muted tones to blend with the wall color. "It's really a round table with its two halves arranged in an S-shape," Marnie pointed out, "and we made it in two days for a fraction of the cost of the one we admired."

She put her experience with the coffee table to use in the bathroom by tiling the vanity top. "It's really easy work," she says, "and it certainly gives an easy-care surface."

While her home and family are her major concerns Marnie says, "I'm another of the driving mothers. I seem to be almost always on the road somewhere and it's really time consuming." She drives the young people—14-year-old Jim, 12-year-old Dorothy and 10-year-old Marilyn—to Estlin School a mile away. And because they are miles-away members of Milestone 4-H Beef Club both she and Don find themselves involved in the youngsters' projects. Now that 16-year-old Susan is enrolled for Grade 11 at Regina's Luther College she travels the road to Regina frequently. At harvest time she helps out by hauling grain and, in between times, she's the farm's "chore boy."

Marnie and Don have firm ideas about bringing up children. "We feel you only get from them what you expect of them," Marnie says, "and we expect ours to live up to the standards that we lay down." For example, when she helps out by hauling flax as she did last summer, Susan prepares the meals. Dorothy and Marilyn help too. The girls all know how to bake cakes and cookies and they do some of the cleaning. Jim, of course, helps his dad.

Looking out of her living-room window, Marnie mused about the way their community is changing. "We have everything we need here, and yet five families have built homes in Regina and commute to the farm. You begin to wonder where it will end." For themselves, the McQuoids have two objectives: first, they plan to enjoy their new-old home for a long time to come; secondly, they plan to continue their efforts to build up their year-round farm operation.

IN Biblical days, chaff was a waste product to be "blown before the wind." Today, chaff, screenings, and even some types of straw are considered valuable feeds. Some cattlemen are taking a long look at the waste pouring from their combines and figuring out ways to turn it into beef.

Don McQuoid of Estlin, Sask., solved his chaff wastage by getting a blower and dump wagon which attaches to the end of his combine. This leaves the straw, chaff and under-sized grain kernels in compact piles on the field. The piles are loaded with a fork lift and hauled into a storage-feeder in the farmyard for winter use.

"If I just baled my straw I'd lose the chaff and waste grain," said Don. "After the first season the feed I save costs no more than the extra power needed to pull the dump wagon. This cuts my hay needs in half."

The McQuoids don't grow any hay at all. Each year they contract for about 100 tons of alfalfa hay to be delivered and stacked on their farm. Winter rations for their cows consist of oat straw, oat chaff, wheat chaff and hay. Wheat straw is separated from the chaff by a simple machine adjustment and baled for bedding. Without the feeder full of chaff and oat straw they would have to buy 200 tons of hay. In other words, about \$1,750 worth of extra equipment has meant a saving of up to \$2,000 a year.

Don has two sections of grain land on the home farm, and another 1½ sections of pasture land at Francis, about 35 miles away, seeded to Rambler alfalfa and brome. On his cultivated land, he grows about 540 acres of wheat and 100 acres of oats each year. The rest is summer-fallowed. This past season he seeded 160 acres of flax.

"I didn't know the Government was going to make that big wheat sale to Russia," he said ruefully.

IN addition to grain growing, McQuoid raises purebred Herefords on a share basis with a Regina businessman. He runs 20 breeding cows of his own and 35 for his partner. For herd sires, he has a \$7,000 bull from the Wyoming Hereford Ranch and a British bull bought from Art Slade of Tompkins, Sask.

When the cows are brought home from Francis (generally between October 15 to November 7) they go directly onto their hay-straw-chaff diet. About 6 weeks to 2 months before calving, they are put on a grain ration of 3 to 4 pounds of rolled oats per animal per day. They also receive injections of Vitamin A.

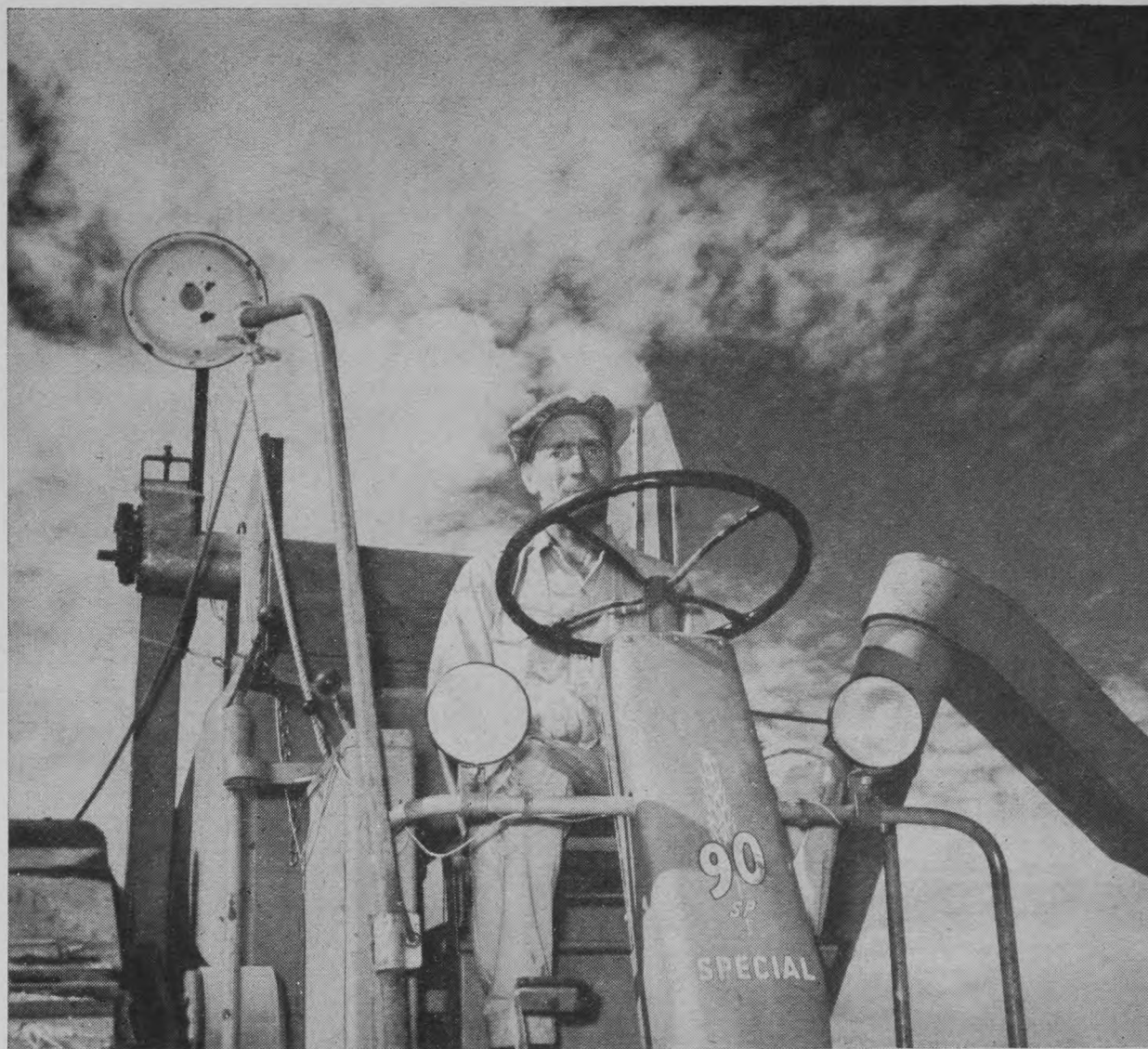
The young stock is wintered on rolled oats and hay in corrals back of the barn. Bulls are kept through to 2 years of age so they can hit the spring bull sale market. All cattle are wintered outside with only plywood windbreaks for shelter.

Don is also a partner in Estlin Air Services Co., an air spraying enterprise. Other partners are brothers-in-law S. C. Smith and O. D. Lewis, both of whom are farmer-neighbors. The company holds a commercial charter and has a hired pilot. Using a Piper Super Cub with belly tanks and a boom sprayer on the wings, the service sprayed about 23,000 acres last June to control mustard, stinkweed and thistle.

Don McQuoid is no stranger to aircraft. During World War II he was a Wing Commander in No. 405 Pathfinder Squadron, R.C.A.F., winning three decorations, the D.S.O. and D.F.C. and bar.

A big problem in the Estlin area is a lack of water. Farmers there have to rely on dugouts, or have water hauled in from Regina or Riceton. Don has two dugouts with a total capacity of 500,000 gallons. Intake pipes in the bottom of each supply water to the house and barns. The stock is watered at automatically filled, electrically heated troughs. Dugout construction was partially financed by PFRA.

Like most prairie farmers, Don believes in mechanization. "The trend today is to fewer machines but bigger and better ones," he said. ✓



Don McQuoid atop his combine. He uses his chaff and waste grain for feed instead of leaving it on field. [Guide photos

... *Don McQuoid the Farmer*

Grain, Cattle and Chaff

by **CLIFF FAULKNER**

Field Editor



McQuoid's blower and wagon for collecting straw and chaff. Equipment worth \$1,750 saves \$2,000 a year.



Many farmers flocked to the seven county corn days to learn what the recipe for good corn was.

[Guide photos]

Post-Mortem on Corn

Adverse weather proved that good corn required good management

by **PETER LEWINGTON**

Field Editor

"CHAOS in the corn field," cried some, as they prepared to leave the corn planter in the fence row and return to coarse grain growing. For other farmers, silos were topped up with corn silage in September and there was a surplus to stack or pick for grain. For some, the corn cribs and silos were filled with grain corn by early October. For others the corn was immature and the cobs light. Only a frost could dry it up.

In Ontario, the primary corn growing province, the big push resulted in only a marginal increase in harvest — despite a 25 per cent increase in acreage. Statistics, like a little knowledge, can be dangerous. Some observers concluded that, with all this labor, corn was oversold.

Despite this, faith in the corn crop, both for silage and grain, hasn't waned for the wide cross-section of farmers and crop specialists consulted. "It was not only the corn crops, but also the corn managers that were tested in 1963," said Dr. Stan Young of O.A.C. For those like Fergus

Turnbull of Grand Bend the silage corn was good and there was a surplus to pick.

In the preceding season growing conditions were ideal and a long, open fall facilitated drying and harvesting. This ideal year was apparently mistaken for the norm. But 1963 proved to be anything but normal! In May the land was cold. Much of June and July were hot and dry, while August was unseasonably cold. Precipitation was well below average and many areas chalked up new drought records. A combination of factors made this a rugged experience for many a corn grower who had heard the praises sung of this wonder crop. However, lack of moisture, with some possible isolated experiences, was not the limiting factor for yields. One can point to the excellent crops seen across Ontario, for example.

Stan Young is unrepentant in his belief in corn. "In Ontario we grow nearly one million acres, the potential is four million. Canada has a total trading imbalance with the U.S. of \$555 million a year. We spend \$48 million to import corn from the U.S. when we are quite capable of producing this corn for ourselves."

Bill Tossell, the Crop Science head at O.A.C. says, "We won't exceed the demands for corn for feed or for processing. The demand is there. We have the land, the climate and the technical skills to produce the crop." Experience in 1963 proved that the recipe for good corn had to be followed. In a favorable year the weather can obscure a little cheating on the recipe. In a testing year, like the season behind us, one slip meant a drastically reduced crop.

Corn demands excellent fertility, if it is to achieve its potential. In Elgin County, Philip Campbell and Sons had some excellent stands. Their entry in the crop cost competition received 300 pounds of 5-20-10 plus 100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia. Their maximum yield plot received 560 pounds of 5-20-10, 100 pounds of nitrate of potash, 160 pounds of triple phosphate and 100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia. At \$30.16 this may or may not be economic, but it serves to illustrate the trend in fertilizer use for big corn crops.

John R. Stewart, in the neighboring county of Middlesex, had only marginal corn yield reduc-

tions this year and attributes this to fertilizer. "Heavy fertilizing was good insurance for a dry year. The success was in proportion to the bill for nitrogen." Nitrogen has to be applied in suitable balance with other nutrient needs or maturity will be delayed.

The planting date proved to be another significant factor. Murray Selves, in Perth County, had corn in the ground on April 29. Once it was snowed on and twice it was frozen, as it peeped through the cold ground. Selves still averaged 100 bushels of shelled corn to the acre. Archie McLaren of Ridgetown reports that the Western Ontario Agricultural School planted their first corn on April 26, "Yield tests show that after May 10 every day's delay in planting resulted in further reduced yields. Every day's delay after May 10 cost the farmer one dollar per acre, owing to the reduced moisture."

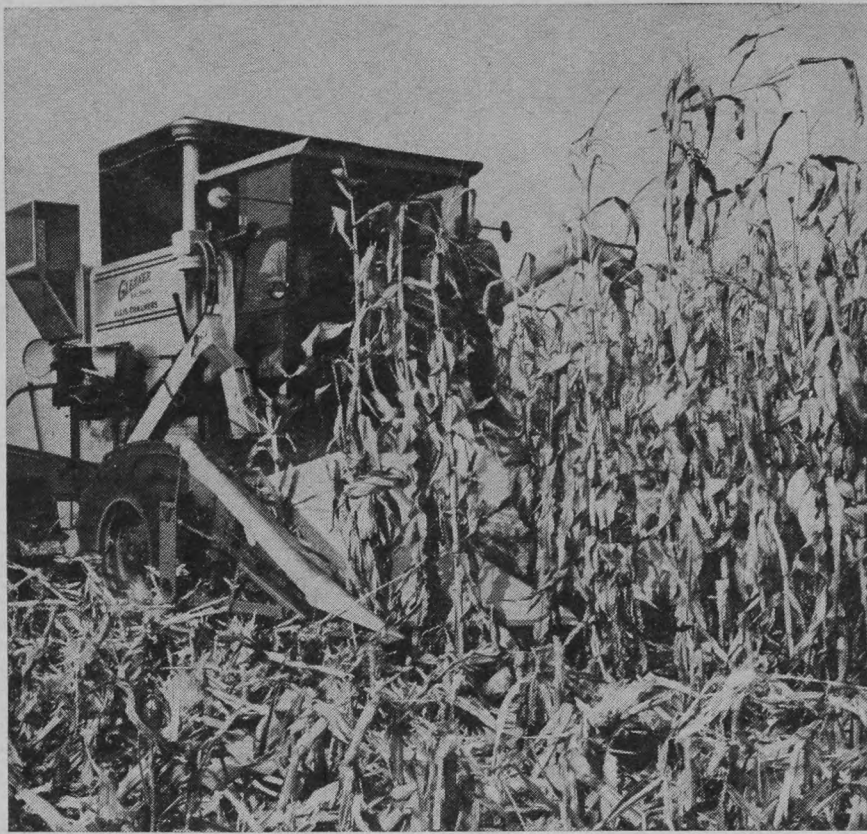
Hand in hand with early planting goes the choice of the right hybrid. "Too many," says Selves, "are still going for the long shots—the late maturing, high potential yielding hybrids which can only mature in a good year."

Ontario has been divided into climatic zones for purposes of seed corn selection. A refinement of this is the division into "Heat Unit" isotherms. Essex County is accorded 3,500 heat units while the northern and eastern parts of the province will receive only 2,500 in an average year. If the date of planting is close to that recommended, then specific hybrids should mature in specific areas. The recommended hybrids are listed with their names and numbers, under the heat unit classification for which they are suited. "Everybody," says Stan Young, "is familiar with the name of the company which produced their seed corn. A surprising number have no idea what the hybrid number is. Both are essential. Only a small percentage used the right hybrid—and only a small percentage had the desired maturity and moisture content to harvest at the right time."

Success in weed control also varied to a marked degree. Here, early planting proved significant. Where spraying with Atrazine was done early there was, in most cases, sufficient moisture to activate the chemical. In heavier soils where moisture was low and weed control poor there



"Ah!" says Dr. Bill Tossell, head of crop science at O.A.C. "See what you get if you follow rules."



Some good machines with good operators at the wheel reaped yields only fractionally lower than those bumper crops they harvested in the 1962 season.

may be a carryover of Atrazine into 1964. Where there is risk of this it is advisable to sow corn again. If quack grass is a problem herbicide specialists recommend 8 pounds per acre the first year and then taper off throughout a 3- to 4-year rotation of continuous corn. This way the risk of damage to succeeding crops, such as beets, legumes and beans is minimized.

With today's potent herbicides it is essential to have a well-built sprayer, with an agitator. It is important to have it accurately calibrated and driven with a minimum of overlap.

All seed corn is treated against disease but a further precaution is to

have the seed treated to repel such insects as wireworm and the seed corn maggot. For detailed information on the control of insects, consult "Insects in Corn," available from the Canada Department of Agriculture.

The year 1963 proved to be one that many would like to forget. It also proved to be a good year for testing the corn recipe. Our level of technology in the corn field can now result in a good crop in a bad year. The hoary joke of the farmer, "who didn't need any more know-how because already he wasn't farming as well as he knew how to," looks sadly out of date. V

The Corn Recipe

Fertility. A 100-bushel crop will require 140 pounds of nitrogen (N), 70 pounds of phosphorus (P) and 140 pounds of potash (K). The fertilizer applied will vary with soil fertility.

Planter speed. Every mile per hour you drive in excess of the desired speed, reduces the stand by 10 per cent. A uniform stand is essential.

Test plots. For added interest and increased potential in the following year, have a few test rows of alternative hybrids.

Hybrid. Use only the hybrids recommended for your area. Don't rely on frost to reduce the moisture content.

Plant population. Gear plant population to soil fertility. Better soils will stand higher plant populations; allow 10 per cent for wastage of seed. Sixteen thousand to 18,000 plants per acre are recommended.

Plant early. Planting dates are being steadily moved ahead.

Weed control. This may be by cultivation or by herbicides. A weed-free environment is now possible.

Treated seed. Seed corn is treated to ward off disease—also have it treated to repel voracious insects.

Avoid harvesting wastage. With corn that may be worth \$1.40 per bushel, driving too fast with a badly set machine is an expensive luxury. (With corn spaced in 36-inch rows, count the kernels dropped in a 49-inch length and divide by 20 to get an estimate of the field losses.)

Moisture. "Moisture," says Dr. Stan Young, Crops Extension Specialist at OAC, "was not the limiting factor in 1963. Weather conditions illustrated that for top yields you had to use *all* the ingredients in the corn recipe."

✓ Iroquois Indians hold Rain Dance.

✓ Lakes Huron and Michigan 2.4 feet below normal.

✓ Milk and cheese production drops in southern Ontario.

✓ Extended drought may affect fish and wildlife.

✓ Rain badly needed as far east as Leeds County.

... these were some of the more dramatic effects of Ontario's worst drought since 1901. Guide Field Editor Peter Lewington looks at problems facing farmers in the ...

Aftermath of the Drought

FOR some individuals it was a depressing year in which water purchases have skimmed the profits. For the province it has been a year of testing.

In recent years water tables have been dropping due to increased water use by urban and farm people, expanded drainage schemes and reduced precipitation. These, and other signs, have been clearly visible for several years. But the drought in 1963 brought them sharply into focus. The obvious and long term solution is to handle the problem through a newly created Department of Conservation. At present half a dozen government departments have ineffective fingers in the pie.

In late October the Ontario Government, in consultation with farm organizations, created an "Emergency Water Committee." As one wag put it, "The only committee which a good long rain could dissolve." For farmers in need, the situation had no humor. However, events indicate that a solution is available right on the farm. The mechanics of moving water, the risk of pollution from tank trucks not built for handling potable water and the absence of storage facilities on most farms clearly limit effectiveness of any "crash" program.

What are the lessons learned and the probable solutions to the problem?

Deep drilled wells, while expensive, were unaffected by the drought this year. William Dale, a director of the Canadian Water Well Contractors Association, reports, "We have been swamped with work orders, especially in the last 2 months. The repercussions are still being felt. Many are out of water for the first time and the shallow well is rapidly becoming a thing of the past."

Ken Lantz, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and head of the emergency water committee told me, "We will have to rely more and more on preserving surface water with ponds and dugouts. What a government can do in an emergency in no way reduces the need to take all possible action on the farm." Many farmers dug or enlarged ponds and many more could do this before freeze-up. A 1,000-cubic-yard capacity pond can be dug for about \$200. This would give water for 23 head of cattle for a full 12 months. Many conservation authorities pro-

vide incentives for building ponds so that the net cost to the farmer is quite small.

Shallow ponds surrounded by piles of dirt, with a herd of cattle tramping the sides, are a poor investment. A deep pond, with fairly straight sides, graded and seeded banks, a fence and a piped water outlet will not depreciate. A good pond has become one of the most desirable and essential features for any farm—in any year.

The clearest lesson of the drought has been that there is no substitute for good farming. Winter wheat, despite the banner scare headlines of the daily press looks good where it was sown on time in a firm, well prepared seedbed. Damage to pasture crops and new seedlings from a combination of drought and late and excessive grazing was minimized on many farms by supplementary feeding. Storing forage for use at any time of the year is becoming a generally accepted practice. Where some supplementary feeding was not implemented in time dairy cattle dropped in milk production and young cattle lost the gains of early summer.

Experience in 1963 has shown that some combinations of herbicides and concentrations of herbicides have ruined or depleted succeeding crops. The danger of herbicide residue into 1964 is one of the more serious aspects of the drought.

One way to avoid field losses next year is to grow some seeds in a typical soil sample during winter and observe any herbicide damage. V



Down to the last drop—Ed Brubaker, right, extension engineer, advises Glen Kimball of Ilderton on ways to rebuild the almost dry stock pond.

Feeding trials are showing that bulls gain faster, more efficiently, and produce palatable carcasses.

Some cattlemen are now trying bulls in the feedlot



Some well-known Alberta livestock experts judging the beef quality of a bull at the University of Alberta. Left to right: Joe Kallal, Charlie Gordon, Wes Combs, Dr. Roy Berg (who directed trials) and Sid Lore.

Bulls or Steers for the Feedlot?

Guide Staff Report

THE idea of feeding out bulls rather than steers has been up for discussion for years. Now, it is progressing beyond the talking stage. Early evidence indicates that bulls may have a role to play in the feedlot after all.

Here is why! It has been found that bull beef doesn't have the lack of palatability that was once thought. Government livestock graders are now being told to go easy when grading down bull carcasses. No wonder. In grading bulls and steers following one feeding experiment, they could scarcely tell the difference, calling some steers bulls, and vice versa.

Purdue University scientists report that 5 years' work at their own station provides clear proof that bulls gain faster and convert feed into red meat more efficiently than steers. They report that the major deterrent to bull feeding is market discrimination. They add: "It doesn't seem to be justified. Not when the consumer is demanding more red meat with less fat, and the feeder wants to get more efficient feed conversion. Use of the naturally occurring male hormones accomplishes all of these objectives with only minor effects on palatability and tenderness."

Purdue scientists say they have found no major distinguishing flavor or tenderness between the meat from young bulls or young steers.

Cattleman Tom Lasater of Matheson, Colo., who shattered tradition in the past by producing the "Beefmaster" breed as one whose sole purpose was to produce good beef efficiently, has turned to the idea of bulls in the feedlot. He has stopped castrating all bulls, feeding out his culls as is.

It was reported from the recent Nebraska Beef Conference that U.S. retailers found difficulty selling bull beef because of the word "bull." When they changed it to "unsteer," sales improved. At the same conference, one retailer observed, "We have no difficulty selling rounds, chucks, ribs, and loins, nor lean hamburger; but when flanks and plates are 80 per cent fat, you can't make hamburger. That's why I like bulls. You can sell all of the cheap cuts as hamburger. They're lean."

In Europe, the bull beef idea has already advanced a long way. On most of the continent, a male animal raised for beef is nearly always left

unaltered. The ox is the plow beef. It is very old and tough. In Germany at the meat counter, the words for steer and bull are synonymous.

On this continent, it is becoming hard to overlook bulls for beef. Here is what Purdue University scientists found in their tests last year in comparing bull and steer calves from their Angus herd:

- Bulls gained nearly half a pound per day more than steers, or 27 per cent faster.
- Feed cost for bulls was \$2.86 per cwt. of gain less than for steers.
- Bulls have a greater rib-eye area, less fat cover, and a slightly greater yield of primal cuts. (However, the bulls have 9.3 per cent more chuck and 6.4 per cent less loin and rib than steers, and sell for about \$2.30 per cwt. less than steers.)

In these tests both bulls and steer calves were fed corn silage, supplement, grain corn and mineral. They went onto test at 8½ months, and went to market 23 weeks later.

At the University of Alberta, two bull-feeding trials were completed recently.

Twenty year-old beef-type bulls, along with about the same number of steers (some beef-type, some Holsteins, and some Jerseys), were self-fed a well-supplemented oat and barley ration, along with hay, for 148 days.

The bulls outgained the implanted steers (2.9 lb. per day, compared to 2.7 lb. per day) and put on cheaper gains (12.7 cents per lb., vs. 14.2 cents).

When it came to the carcasses, some of the bulls (they were 18 to 20 months old at slaughter) and implanted bulls showed excessive masculinity, and were down graded. Some were slightly darker cutting than the steers too. But 8 of the 19 bulls received steer grades.

WHAT about eating quality of these bulls? Nine of the 11 carcasses which graded "bull" were sold privately. The people who bought and ate them described the taste as "fairly good" to "excellent," Dr. Roy Berg reports.

Farm journalists Cliff Faulknor of The Country Guide, and Frank Jacobs of Canadian Cattlemen have eaten some of it. "It was good eating," Faulknor reports. Jacobs agrees.

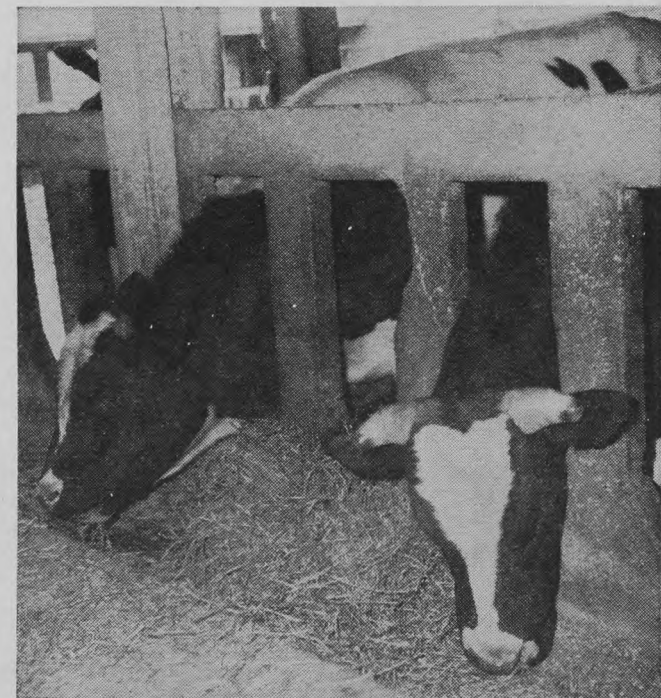
Since these bulls, marketed at 18 to 20 months, were faulted for masculinity, Dr. Berg decided to try finishing some bulls for market at about 1 year old.

He bought 45 Angus bull calves from a large commercial herd. They were weaned on October 2, 1962. A few were castrated to serve as a check. All animals were put into a feedlot in a single pen. The animals were self-fed a growing ration for 3 months, then a finishing ration (barley). The first of them went to market in late March, the remainder in late April.

The bulls outgained the steers by half a pound per day during the trial (although some of the difference could be attributed to castration setback).

The steers all graded choice, while the bulls did almost as well, 6 grading choice, and 1 good. However, several of the implanted bulls graded down.

(Please turn to page 40)



Murray Jack fed out a few bulls along with Holstein steers in his Ontario feedlot with good results.



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Wool in Our Eyes?

by JIM REVELL

Mr. Revell is an Ontario farmer who believes sheep production is best left to those who can do it cheaper than us

IT is claimed there is room in Canada for 2 million more sheep. The Canadian Sheep Breeders Association would like to see our per capita consumption of lamb restored to the 11 or 12 lb. of the early '20's from the present level of around two. We import 10 million lb. of lamb and \$2¼ million of wool annually as well as just under \$70 million worth of wool products. Some breeders would suggest a government aid program as an incentive to increase our steadily declining flock numbers.

These figures seem to confirm the first statement but in the best interest of agriculture and exports generally let us keep right on importing. Canada's healthy economic future is said to depend on expanded export markets. This means we must import too.

Lamb and wool are among the few farm products that can be imported without seriously disrupting our own agricultural economy. Some of our best customers have little else to send us in return for our manufactured goods. Some of our future customers are also, by tradition and circumstances, sheep producers.

Of Canada's total export earnings, 20 per cent comes from agriculture, of this, 25 per cent is earned by foreign sales. Open channels of trade are vital to farmers as well as manufacturers.

The growing momentum of the free trade movement throughout the world is forcing all trading countries to examine their own production, and to develop these items of manufacture and agriculture that make best use of comparative costs and natural advantages.

Canada's minister of trade and commerce has declared the new government will overhaul Canadian commercial policy. It is a warning of difficulties ahead for industries whose products are not priced to compete in a world of free trade.

Both Canada and the United States are concerned over the European Common Market countries who intend to protect their high cost agriculture by tariffs, against the food stuffs of non-member countries. We argue that this is protecting inefficient production.

Precisely the same situation is presented by Canadian attempts to encourage an expanded sheep industry here.

Canadian sheep production is not economically sound. New Zealand lamb, for example, can be purchased at any time of year, fresh frozen, and oven-ready, at less than half the

price of Canadian cuts. It defies the experts to tell the difference as it comes to the table, whether it was imported or from a grain-fed Ontario lamb at three times the cost of production. Australian sheepmen are also specialists and can sell a lamb off grass for \$6 compared to our \$20 or \$22.

Forty-nine million sheep in New Zealand account for two-thirds of her total export trade. Australian wool brings 60¢ a lb. in a free market and the 1963 crop is expected to be 200 million lb.

Sheep—160 million of them—is the number one item in the Australian economy and provide 40 per cent of her total export business.

Favorable climate and terrain, along with scientific production progress has led to a tremendous expansion in both Australia and New Zealand so that markets abroad must be expanded too.

Great Britain is the world's largest exporter of wool tops and more important to us, she is our best Commonwealth customer.

We send Australia more than twice what we receive from her. New Zealand Trade Commissioner for Eastern Canada, Mr. Robert Gray, said in London, Ont., early this year that his country spends \$28 million annually for Canadian products and materials while Canada buys \$12 million from New Zealand.

Mr. Gray was in London visiting the General Motors Diesel Plant from which New Zealand had purchased 10 locomotives. Since then 10 more have been purchased.

We need their markets and more, for many things such as ingot aluminum, nickel, white asbestos, pulp and paper and tractor parts.

"We must expand our trade," said Mr. Gray, "and the positive way to go about it is to promote the consumption of lamb."

ALL claims of the opportunities in Canadian sheep raising diminish when not tied to the government assistance program. Ranchers who utilize borderline pasture unsuitable for other kinds of livestock production and those enrolled in the ARDA program may justify a support plan but certainly not the large specialized flocks that are springing up, usually as a sideline to some other enterprise.

However, borderline grassland production contributes to inferior carcasses that packers don't want to handle because of their erratic size and quality. Retailers fault them be-

cause of the cost of handling and the less desirable cuts that are hard to merchandize.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades is designed to facilitate the freest possible movement of agricultural products. The expected benefits of GATT have been disappointing because of governments intervening and tinkering with the normal movement of trade. Restrictive import regulations and tariffs become necessary to allow domestic assistance programs to function.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics publication *Current Review* of January 1962 carried this: "The Agricultural Stabilization Board has had to purchase, freeze and store about 100 thousand good and choice lamb carcasses since August 1961 in order to maintain the price of lamb at various markets across Canada."

Under the heading *External Trade* the same issue commented: "Government protection of agriculture often entails intervention in the marketing of farm products both for domestic and export. When protective measures depart from normal commercial practices difficulties are likely to be experienced in international trade."

Competition from wool substitutes can be expected to get tougher though the substituters admit wool will be around for a long time yet, just as it has been for thousands of years.

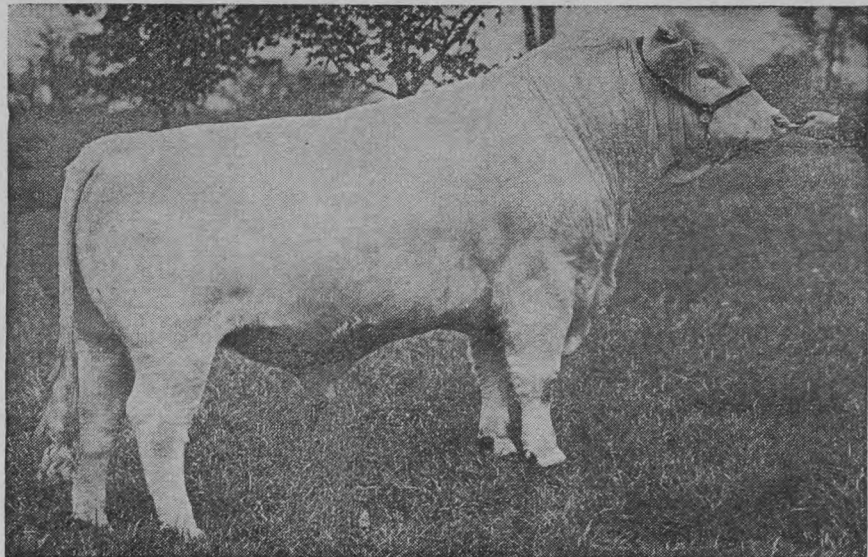
Wool and wool-product usage declined 7 per cent in the first half of 1962 in Great Britain and the trend continues. In the U.S.A. all wool and wool-blended carpeting has gone back to fourth place among floor covering suppliers.

One Canadian sweater manufacturer had this to say when interviewed: "Nothing could be of less importance to me than Canada's wool industry. The finest yarns are imported and anyway 75 per cent of the fiber in the yarns we use are synthetics."

These are factors that enthusiastic sheepmen should consider and remember. In the main the policies and plans of government for their industry will be close to the advice and requests of their producer organization.

It would be well too, to hesitate before taking up the time and enterprise of girls and boys in 4-H sheep clubs. There are other sectors of agriculture with a healthier present and a less dubious future than sheep in Canada.

Charolais Wins "Golden" Award



This Charolais bull is the first of his breed to qualify for the coveted "Golden Certified Meat Sire" award. Carlos is owned by C.O.C.B.A. at Maple, Ont.

THE Charolais bull Carlos, owned by Central Ontario Cattle Breeding Association, Maple, Ont., has become the first bull in Canada to win Performance Registry International's coveted "Golden Certified Meat Sire" award.

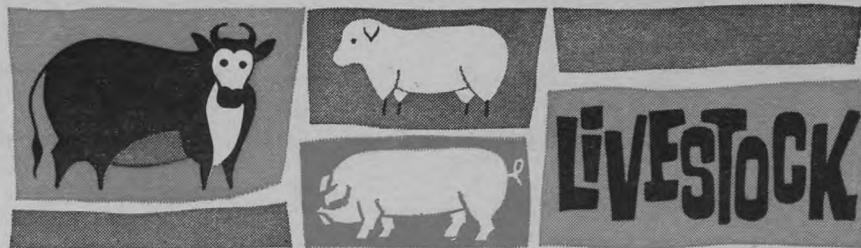
He is only the seventh bull in North America to receive this coveted award and the first of his breed to qualify.

Carlos has been in the C.O.C.B.A. stud since 1958, and has been used extensively in Ontario and in Western Canada since then.

C.O.C.B.A. are progeny testing

all their young beef bulls. The plan is to test 11 steers from each sire, to obtain rate of gain figures and carcass evaluation on their offspring. Steer calves are purchased and put on test at Shur-Gain Farms, Maple, Ont., according to P.R.I. regulations. Rate of gain and feed efficiency is measured during the full feed period. When the steers are finished the carcasses are officially scored by Federal Government graders.

These tests are supervised by the Ontario Beef Cattle Performance Association under their "Quality Meat Sire" policy. The Ontario



Association is affiliated with Performance Registry International, a certification agency for all beef breeds of cattle, purebred and commercial, with head office in Denver, Colorado.

Dale Lynch, secretary of P.R.I., Denver, Colorado, made this comment:

"Eleven progeny of Carlos were submitted. One steer missed on the weight per day of age and two missed on marbling to give a score of 73 per cent. We were really pleased to qualify this bull since he is the first Canadian bull to qualify and he is also the first Charolais to qualify. To date we have qualified three Angus bulls, one red Angus, one Polled Hereford and one horned Hereford."

Poor Hay Best When Pelleted

POOOR quality hay, used in a feeding trial at a CDA experimental farm at Melfort, Sask., paid off better when it was chopped, ground or pelleted than when fed straight from

a bale, according to Dr. S. E. Beacom, research officer at the farm.

The hay was fed over an 8-week period in long (baled), chopped, ground and pelleted form to 4 groups of 6 steers with these results:

Calves fed long hay consumed about 6.5 lb. each, per day and lost an average of 0.14 lb., body weight per head per day. With chopped hay, consumption was 7.1 lb. per day and gains of 0.22 lb., per head per day were recorded. A third group ate about 10.3 lb. of ground hay daily and gained 1 lb. per day. The fourth group built up their consumption of pelleted hay to 11 lb. per day and chalked up gains of 1.3 lb. per head.

In a comparative trial, Dr. Beacom fed good quality hay with an analysis of 17.5 per cent protein. Here calves gained from 1.32 lb. per day to 2 lb. per day on long and pelleted hay respectively. Consumption ranged from 10.4 to 12.7 lb. per head per day.

He states that in both trials, steers required a week to 10 days before they would accept the pelleted feed readily.

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ALBERTA:



Horses are a hobby with Walter Hutchison—his business is beef. But they come in handy working cattle on 9,000 acres of range land near Medicine Hat, Alta.

Walter Hutchison keeps 40 purebred and 120 commercial cows. He also feeds out 80 yearlings annually—heifers to 900 lbs., and steers to 1,000 lbs. He uses "Miracle" Feeds both on range and in the feed lot. "Miracle" is his choice of feed for one very good reason—profit. It's a good choice, too, because last year Walter Hutchison's cattle topped the sale at Medicine Hat.



Producers Talk Hog Quality

What is the hog quality situation in Alberta? A 14 per cent increase in Grade A's is too low, says the industry

At a recent Hog Quality Conference sponsored by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture in Edmonton, four producers told assembled producer, packer and research representatives what they think should be done to encourage growers to raise better hogs.

Said Dan Giebelhaus of Vegreville, "Sometimes I wonder about our grading standards. Is backfat a true criterion of carcass quality? I'd also favor a greater spread between A and C grade standards."

Dan would like to see a well-publicized educational program for growers to convince them that better quality hogs will bring bigger returns. Many of the courses now held are poorly attended. Farmers just don't seem interested.

"The situation in the weaner hog trade is a crime," he said. "A lot of producers say scrub animals are better than purebreds because they have bigger litters. This gives the grower more pigs to sell at the local auction markets. Quality isn't a factor at all."

"It's impossible to get A hogs from the weaner stock sold in these places," he continued. "They might



Dan Giebelhaus
Is backfat a true quality criterion?

look all right in the sale ring, but they haven't the necessary genetical background to produce good carcasses."

Giebelhaus suggested a 5-point program for hog improvement in the province:

1. That a hog quality board be set up containing representatives of Government, the University and the producers. It should call an annual meeting to plan each year's program.

2. A file should be kept on each grower in the province and a record of his production maintained.

3. The Government should pass legislation forbidding the use or sale of poor quality stock for breeding purposes.

4. The Dept. of Agriculture should establish a "gilt bank" and channel these animals into herds which need the most improvement.

5. There should be an award for the grower who makes the most progress in the province.

Explaining point No. 1, he said that his council or board would have nothing to do with marketing or supply. It would be concerned with hog quality alone. As for financing such a board, he suggested that a

cent or two be taken from C hogs to help pay for it.

"By discriminating against poor (C) hogs this way we'd discourage growers from producing them," he pointed out.

Willard Chappell of Vegreville thinks there has been an improvement in the quality of animals being



Willard Chappell
The biggest problem is overfinish.

offered at purebred sales over the past few years. He believes the biggest problem is overfinish, which is a matter of proper management. Many producers are using too rich a feed, and holding the animals too long in hope of a better price.

"Too many of us judge readiness by eye," he said. "All growers should have a scale and watch for overfinish. This is one of our biggest drawbacks. Many producers are losing a dollar per 100 lb. plus the \$3 provincial premium, because of overfinish."

Willard would favor more Government regulation of registered stock being sold at the public auction marts. The auctions are all right for handling weaners and feeders, but there is too much laxity in the sale of purebred stock, he contends.

"These places take any animal that can pass the health standards," he stated. "No consideration is given to quality or type at all. This sort of thing is giving the purebred swine breeder a black eye."

Chappell is also concerned about the day-to-day fluctuation in hog prices. He thinks hog supply is a bigger factor than actual hog grade at many packing plants.

"I believe somebody is taking us for quite a ride," he said. "There's enough storage in this area to take care of heavy runs so the price can be stabilized. If the price were more stable, there would be fewer animals held on the farms. This would mean less overfinish and more quality carcasses."

George Austin of Ranfurly thinks our present grading standards allow the grader too much leeway. In his own case, his shipments have varied from 75 per cent A's to 50 per cent A's for hogs which were of the same breeding, raised on the same feed and marketed in the same weight range. The only difference between the two lots was that a different name appeared on each grading slip.

"I'd like to see more uniformity in

this," he said. "Are we graded according to the actual number of A's we ship, or according to the supply of A's that particular day? I also don't see why prices should vary so widely from day to day."

George expressed concern about the quality of Alberta hogs. He feels that it hasn't kept up with the quality of other food commodities.

"Too many producers think that if they buy purebreds the quality must be good," he said. "This isn't so. There's a lot of inferior stock being offered for sale these days. The increased demand for weaner hogs has made producers sell all they've got instead of culling properly. I get the impression too many breeders couldn't care less about this."

Austin believes there is too much emphasis placed on purebred sires and little or none on the dams. He thinks more attention should be given to the quality of dams used. Instead of concentrating on a boar



George Austin
Graders have too much leeway . . .

policy, the Government should give some assistance to producers who want to buy good dams.

"If they put more breeders on R.O.P. we'd soon start to get better dams," he said. "I'd hate to buy an expensive dam if no R.O.P. information were available on her."

Oliver Millang of Camrose feels producers should make a bigger effort to raise the leaner animals which the consumer is asking for. They would be encouraged to do this if the price difference between grades were wider so that quality really paid. At present, growers pro-



Oliver Millang
. . . a board would not be necessary.

ducing high quality hogs are subsidizing those who raise low quality animals.

"There's a big market waiting for quality hogs," he said. "If we concentrated on raising better animals a lot of this agitation for a marketing board would die down. A board wouldn't be necessary."

Oliver also feels the present grading system has too many flaws in it. For one thing, graders put too much store on a long carcass. Sometimes a short pig will cut out much better than a long one. The grading system doesn't take note of this at all. He wondered if long pigs were favored because they fitted the boxes packers shipped carcasses in. He would also like to see some other standard than backfat measurements used as a basis for grading, possibly measurement of the ham face.

"If our appraisals of fat were 100 per cent correct, fat would cease to be a problem," he pointed out. "The fact that it's still a big problem means we must look for something else to base our grades on."—C.V.F.V

Winter Rations Can Affect Summer Gains

THE type of winter ration fed steer calves has an important bearing on their pasture gains the following year, reports a federal animal nutrition expert.

Facts and figures on the effects were compiled by Dr. S. E. Beacom, of Canada Department of Agriculture's experimental farm at Melfort, Sask., following a project last winter in which 120 steer calves—with an average initial weight of 450 pounds—were fed various rations for 185 days before being put on pasture.

A ration containing brome hay and barley gave better results than one containing wheat straw and barley and a third with wheat straw and wheat, Dr. Beacom reports. In this test, additional protein, vitamin A and minerals were fed to all steers.

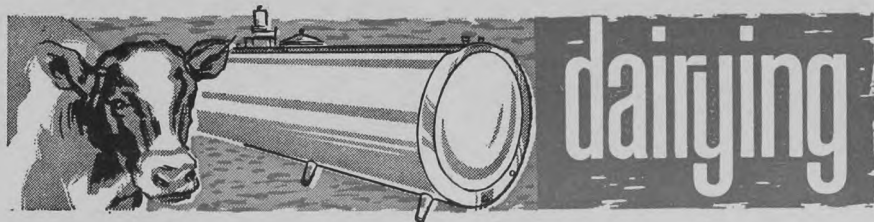
When placed on pasture, hay-fed steers at first lost 18 pounds, but they recovered the loss after 6 days of grazing. On the other hand, steers getting the straw rations required 2 weeks to make up their 32-pound weight loss.

Average gain for the 105-day pasture period was 224 pounds for steers fed hay-barley rations, compared with 194 pounds for those in the straw-barley groups and 205 pounds in the straw-wheat group.

Although the hay-grain ration promoted greater pasture gains, straw plus grain and appropriate supplements make a satisfactory winter ration when hay is expensive or scarce, Dr. Beacom points out. At Melfort, the cost of winter feed per pound of gain was 20 cents for the group getting hay; 19 cents for both groups receiving straw.

Chopped hay proved superior to long, ground or pelleted hay in winter rations. Steers fed ground or pelleted hay adjusted to pasture more quickly, but those getting chopped hay showed the greatest overall pasture gain.

Average gain per steer after 133 days on pasture amounted to 243 pounds for those wintered on long hay; 301 pounds for the steers on chopped hay; 263 pounds for those on ground hay, and 274 pounds for those given pelleted hay rations. Winter feed costs per pound of gain averaged 18.3, 19.4, 22.1 and 30.4 cents for the groups.



The European Approach to Mastitis

B RITISH research workers at the National Institute on Research in dairying found that sterilizing teat clusters of milking machines before each cow is milked gives almost 100 per cent reduction in mastitis. Clusters are dipped in water between 176 and 194 degrees for 5 or 6 seconds.

Research personnel have now developed an automatic hot water unit for this purpose. It is a cylindrical tank, standing on end, with a basket in the top. The water is kept at 194 degrees. When the teat clusters are placed in the basket it sinks into the water. Exactly 5 seconds later it is automatically elevated out of the water.

Other experiments have shown that dipping the teat clusters in chlorine or iodophors for 1 minute lowers mastitis infection by about 50 per cent. Many of those concerned with mastitis research believe improper procedures in washing udders can lead to a spread of the disease. The use of paper towels or a separate clean towel for each cow is recommended.

Although work on fluctuating vacuum and overmilking didn't indicate that they cause mastitis, it was recommended that the vacuum did not exceed 18 inches or fall below 14 inches and that overmilking be avoided. They recommend two milking units per man in a conventional stable and three in a milking parlor.

In Germany mastitis control comes under the Animal Disease and Cow Health Service. They believe so strongly in good milking practices that they have established schools for milkers of 2 weeks duration. The Germans claim to have reduced the incidence of mastitis from 35 to 12 per cent in the last 15 years. One recommendation is that herd replacements be raised on the farm and not bought. It appears that the highest incidence of mastitis is found in herds where replacements are purchased.

The Danish Mastitis Control Program is operated by the Government Veterinary Service. Veterinarians treat the cows in that country. Producers are forbidden by law to administer antibiotics. All dairymen shipping to fluid markets are checked every month. If there is any evidence of mastitis, the producer cannot ship his milk for fluid milk consumption until his herd has been tested the following month and found to be clear of disease. An annual inspection by an official inspector is also required for all milking machines. This includes vacuum control and the condition of the cups.

Control of mastitis in these three countries depends upon many important factors, none of which can be overlooked. Among the more important are proper milking practices, rigid sanitation and vigilance.

A complete discussion of the mastitis problem is outlined in the publication "Mastitis Must Be Beaten!" available to Alberta farmers from district agriculturists and the Extension Service of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. V

Manure Belongs on the Land

D AIRYMAN Lawrence Champion believes the best place for manure is on the land, not on the barn floor or stacked outside where much of its value can be lost through leaching.

About 3 years ago he put a new wing onto his barn and installed modern barn-cleaning equipment.



[Guide photo] This barn cleaner puts manure directly into spreader parked in annex.

The addition was built out from the old barn like the downstroke of a T with the conveyor of the cleaner passing under the older structure and depositing its load in an annex which used to house young stock.

Lawrence saves himself the chore of having to load the manure by having the conveyor discharge it directly into a spreader. As soon as the spreader is full, all he has to do is hitch up a tractor and haul the load out to the fields. This is done in summer and winter, even when the ground is heavily covered with snow.

"A lot of people think our Saskatchewan winters put an end to such outdoor chores," said Lawrence, "but so far, we've never had to put

off spreading because of the weather."

The Champions farm 320 acres at Pasqua, a few miles east of Moose Jaw. About half of their herd of 45 Holsteins are purebreds and the rest grade stock. They grow all their own roughage, including hay and pasture, but have to buy their feed grain. For 6 months a year the animals are fed inside.

Lawrence and his wife, Erie, operate the farm as a family enterprise with everybody pitching in to lend a hand. Four times a week Mrs. Champion trucks the milk into the dairy at Moose Jaw. Sons Roy, 16, and Bruce, 12, help with the feeding and haying chores. Both boys have been 4-H calf club members for several years.—C.V.F. V

Heavier Cows Give More Milk?

T HERE is a direct relationship between the body weight of a cow at calving time and her milk production, according to Alberta's Supervisor of Dairy Cattle Improvement R. P. Dixon.

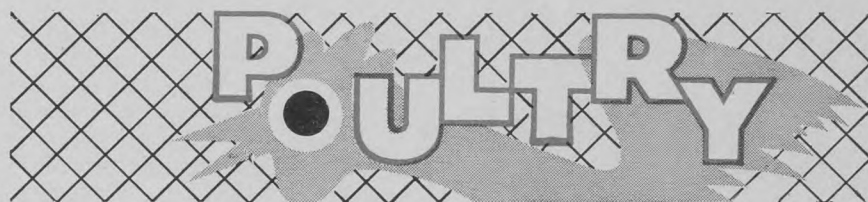
Dixon quotes data compiled by Dr. R. D. Clark during studies conducted at the Canada Agriculture Research Station at Lethbridge. Dr. Clark collected 1,344 records from

six different Holstein herds, covering lactations one through eight.

In the first lactation an average increase of 192 lb. of milk and 11 lb. of fat was recorded for each 100 lb. of weight in cattle of the same age. Cows of the same weight but different ages at the first calving, averaged an increase of 66 lb. of milk and 1.7 lb. of fat was recorded for each added month of age.

Differences followed the same pattern through the eight lactations. During a 305-day milking period, an average of 357 lb. of milk and 12 lb. of fat was recorded for each 100 lb. increase in weight at calving time for cows of the same age. There was an average increase of only 4.3 lb. of milk and 1 lb. of fat for each additional month of age at calving in cows of the same weight.

In the first lactation the influence of age and weight was about the same. In the second lactation, age had a greater influence on fat production than weight. In lactation three through eight, weight was the important factor and the influence of age was small. Although heavier cows give more milk it does not pay to delay breeding to obtain the extra growth and weight. Results of studies indicate more consideration should be given in milk production record comparisons, to weights of the animals, he said. V



Contact Lenses for Chickens

by HARRY J. MILLER

C ONTACT lenses are now for the birds. But the tiny red plastic lenses are not designed to make chickens see better—only to distort their vision and make them see red. As a result, the bird is no longer attracted by injuries that draw blood and set a flock of chickens to peck a hapless victim to death.

This unfortunate trait of cannibalism is so widespread that most of the 300 million layers in the United States today have their beaks cut to reduce picking injuries, yet the result is far from satisfactory.

However, a pair of red contacts costing little more than debeaking, solves this irksome problem.

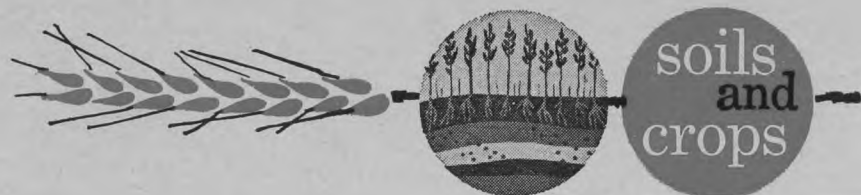
The most startling aspect of the use of contact lenses, is their quieting effect upon flighty birds. The lenses stop bossiness, and prevent the establishment of a peck order, so new birds can be added to the group without starting a fight.

The lenses distort the chicken's vision. Thus chicks behave ideally. They no longer panic when exposed to sudden sound or movement. The lenses reduce emotional stresses and egg breakage while stopping birds from picking over their feed and wasting it.

The contact lens idea was created by A. W. Schriener, of Vision Control Research in California, who has been long associated with the poultry industry. What aroused his interest initially was his observation of chickens that had cataracts. Although they were not debeaked and were housed in group cages, these hens were untroubled by flightiness or

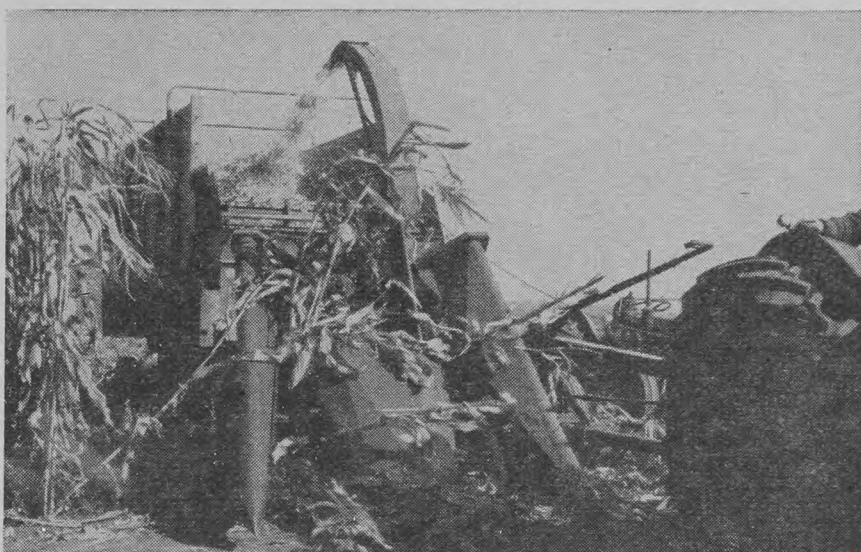


[Miller photo] Fitting contact lenses involves a simple operation that takes little more time than debeaking and costs about the same, and helps behavior.



Two Ways to Make High Energy Silage

These two farmers found different ways to harvest corn for silage, discarding some stalk to make it a high-energy, almost-complete beef ration



[Guide photos] Murray Laidlaw, Aylmer, Ont., has a machine which will pick one row of corn as it chops another one at same time. The machine can be used to harvest either fortified corn silage or whole plant corn silage all in the one operation.

MURRAY LAIDLAW of Aylmer, Ont., has the only pick-chop harvester to come into Canada so far. It's double headed; the outer section has snapper rolls and picks only the ears while the inner section of the harvester head reaps the whole plant. The machine can also be used as a traditional 1-row forage harvester. Laidlaw has filled his two 24' x 70' silos by both methods — the one silo has whole plant silage while the other has fortified silage.

Murray Laidlaw sees these advantages in his new system:

- Cuts down on equipment; one machine in one operation can harvest the corn crop.

- More effective use is made of the silo; less "salad" and more high energy grain makes a denser silage thereby increasing the capacity of the silo.

- It's almost a complete beef ration, requiring only the addition of concentrate as it is augered from the silo to the feed bunks. Laidlaw cautions that feed of this caliber is too expensive to waste and notes that a good silo is a necessity. He likes the principle of a fortified-silage harvester but points to some necessary modification before the prototype goes into larger production. A tractor in excess of 50 horsepower is required.

- Earlier harvest is possible; harvesting, plowing and fall fertilization can all be done during good weather.

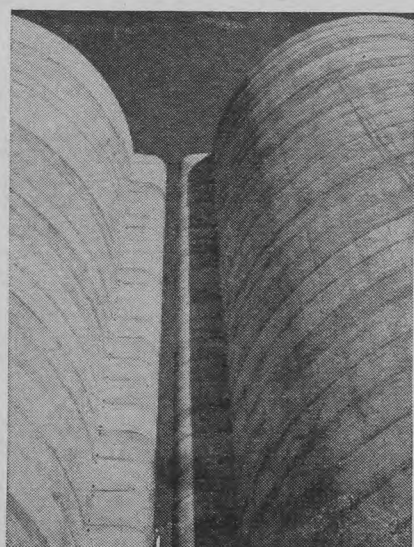
- Losses which can occur with pickers are virtually eliminated.

Similar results have been achieved by Jack Giles of Glencoe, by using

a 1-row forage harvester, modified by his grandfather, George Matheson.

A 42-inch sickle bar mounted on a heavy welded and bolted frame and operated by a pitman shaft from the harvester drive, lops the tops of the next corn row to be harvested. The sickle bar is adjustable in height and normally lops the corn at about 6 feet in height. The forage harvester is set to leave a high 10-inch stubble. The combination of the lopping of the top and the high stubble means that Giles harvests the center of the corn plant — and puts up a high energy feed for beef cattle.

"Last year," says Giles, "I stored 21 acres of good corn. The corn I picked went 100 bushels to the acre and the best went into the silo. I fed 93 head for other farmers and



This year Laidlaw filled one silo with fortified silage and the other one with whole plant corn silage.

in 5 months the average increase was 284 pounds. The year before, with conventional harvesting of silage and ear corn, extra machines and labor were required. The fortified silage required no grain additives, just some concentrate. Fortified silage cuts my labor costs during the feeding period."

These special harvesting techniques for fortified silage are only useful to the man fattening cattle. They will probably have a limited appeal on many farms, by the need to use all the corn plant and by the success of plant breeders in developing higher energy corn.—P.L. V

How Does Your Hay Stack Up?

A TEAM of workers at the Swift Current Experimental Farm, Sask., has developed and tested a scoring system for judging the potential feeding value of hay. By using the system almost any livestock feeder should quickly be able to learn to evaluate the feeding quality of roughages, say researchers.

Similar work at other locations has suggested nearly identical methods of scoring the quality of hay by visual appraisal. In the Swift Current system quality is described by (1) cleanness (dirty, dusty, clean); (2) odor (earthy, burnt, moldy, musty, crop odor); (3) freshness (decaying, weathered, fresh); (4) texture (coarse, brittle, harsh, soft); (5) color (brown, yellowish, green); (6) growth stage at harvest (ripe, flowering, pre-flower); and (7) composition (weeds, stems, leaves). Each of these characteristics is judged and given a score from 1 to 9 according to desirability.

Try scoring your hay by this method. A specially designed score card with more detailed information is available from the Experimental Farm at Swift Current. Give only one score for each of the seven criteria. Have several people score the same lot of hay independently, then discuss differences of opinion. It is not advisable to use only the sum total of all your scores as a measure of quality.

When first scoring hay by this method, experience is important. However, by taking a stand on each of the characteristics in the scoring system you can quickly get experience in what to look for. V

A Few Pounds of Seed

WE hear a lot of talk about improving native rangeland.

Government projects have come and gone, and most of these have shown that reseeding does increase range carrying capacity. Up in B.C.'s Peace River country the ranching Ardill family has been gradually improving leased range over many years with a simple, but effective project of their own.

"There's very little native grass on much of our range," Jack Ardill explained, "most of it is trees and brush."

The Ardills run about 500 head of beef cattle and 100 horses near Hudson Hope (site of the Peace River

Power project) in partnership with sons, John, Dick and Tom, and a married daughter Betty. Their holdings consist of 4,000 acres of deeded land along the north bank of the Peace, and about 30,000 acres of lease in the wild country above and below the river breaks.

Some years ago they tried improving their native range by scattering from 50 lb. to 200 lb. of timothy, brome and crested wheatgrass seed a year among the bushes from horseback. This sounds like a casual way to seed grass, but it has worked.

"Over a long period of time we've developed some pretty good range," said Jack.

Cultivated crops grown include oats, barley, wheat and alfalfa seed. Most of the grain is used for feed. In addition to this, the Ardills put up a lot of alfalfa, oat and grass silage.

For home use, they grow a wide range of vegetables, from potatoes to tomatoes. These are stored in a concrete-walled root cellar located on a side hill below the house. The cellar is wired for electric light, and has double doors to insulate it from winter temperatures, which sometimes reach 40° below zero.

Another interesting structure on the ranch is an 8-sided log horse barn. Designed by John Ardill, this building has a concrete foundation and an aluminum roof supported by a central pole with eight radial braces. It took about 3 years to build.

One of the big problems facing cattlemen in this area is cattle losses through rustling and careless hunting. John Ardill, who is president of the local branch of the B.C. Beef Cattle



[Guide photo] Jack Ardill, (r.) with his son Dick.

Growers' Association, reports that the Association has posted a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of rustlers. Ranchers suspect an organized theft ring operating in this area.

Careless hunters have shot cattle, horses and even goats on the Ardill place. A friend who operates a freezer service in a nearby town tells of a hunter who carted in a dead horse one day and asked if he could have his "moose" butchered and stored in the freezer.

Another problem is a change in the range leasing situation through building of the huge Peace dam, said to be the largest earth fill dam in the world (probably to distinguish it from the South Saskatchewan dam, called the largest in Canada). Leases now read that the holder must agree to a 90-day cancellation clause on all land which lies below a certain level. But these problems are the price of change and progress. "We all love this country up here," Jack Ardill said enthusiastically.—C.V.F.V



Bulk Bins for Soft Fruits



[Canada Dept. of Agriculture photo]

These new shallow bins are helping an Okanagan peach grower to cut costs.

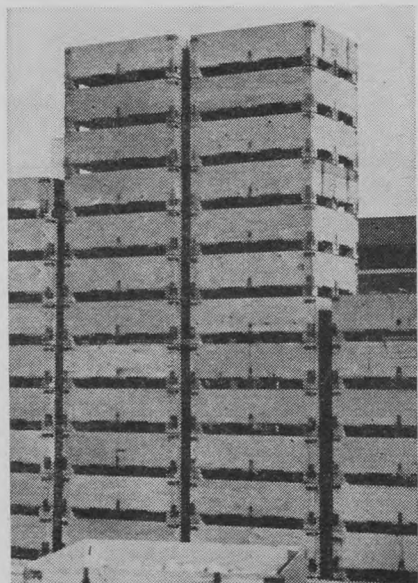
NOW that bulk bins have been so widely accepted for apples and pears, soft fruit growers are showing keen interest in this method of handling. At the CDA Research Station, Summerland, B.C., agricultural engineers have come up with a shallow bulk bin which appears to provide the answer.

The new bins are similar to apple bins, only shallower. Width and length are the same (48 x 43 inches), but the soft fruit bins are only 12 inches deep instead of 24. However, the hinged end gate of these smaller

another in 1962. This year, five plants have used a total of about 5,000 of these shallow bins, mostly for peaches. But some cherry and apricot growers have been using them too. They can also be used for prunes and Golden Delicious apples."

McMechan and his staff found that Vee peaches (a term used to include three "freestone" peach varieties — Veteran, Vedette and Valiant) received no greater damage in the bins than in ordinary bushel boxes, providing fruit depth wasn't over 9 or 10 inches. Growers like these bins because they can be lifted by mechanical means instead of by hand.

Once slow to accept the idea of bulk bins, most canners are now enthusiastic about them. Apart from the ease of handling, bins allow plenty of air movement around the fruit when stacked.—C.V.F. ✓



Soft fruit bins lock together when stacked, as at this Okanagan cannery.

bins is full width and 9 inches high. The pallets are made so the bins lock together to prevent them shifting when being handled by a fork lift or carried on a truck.

"Our experimental work with these bins was done from 1958 to 1961," said Al McMechan, Agricultural Engineering Section head. "One packing house started using them in 1960,

Care of Raspberry Plantings

EFFICIENT late summer and fall management of the raspberry patch should ensure good production for 10 to 12 years. So says researcher R. H. Anderson of the Canada Experimental Farm at Melfort, Sask.

Raspberry plantings suffer from alternate warm and cold periods in late winter. Avoid this by bending the canes over and covering the tips with soil about mid-October. Then allow snow to cover and protect the whole plant.

It is also important to prune off canes that have borne fruit and to thin new canes where these are too numerous. Pruning should be done each year soon after the fruiting season. New canes grown in rows should be thinned to 6-inch spacings in rows 15 to 18 inches wide. When grown in hills, 8 to 10 canes

are sufficient for an area 2 feet in diameter.

Raspberries are heavy feeders. If the planting lacks vigor, Mr. Anderson suggests an application of 15 tons of well-rotted barnyard manure per acre in fall or early spring. ✓

Tulip Blight

FALL is the time to fight tulip blight according to horticulturists of the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture.

Tulip or botrytis blight is also known as tulip fire. It can affect all parts of the plant. On affected bulbs tiny dark flecks first appear on bulb

scales. Later these flecks run together and give a burnt appearance. Margins may become raised and diseased areas become yellow or brown. Badly infected bulbs won't produce plants the following spring and those that survive will be stunted and blighted.

To control the blight:

- Choose open, sunny sites with good air circulation for bulbs. There is less possibility of blight if tops dry quickly after rains or dew.

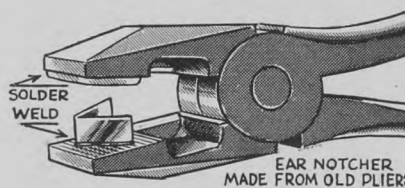
- Plant only disease-free bulbs. Check them by removing the dry outer scales. Discard any that show disease symptoms.

- Avoid ground previously planted to tulips, particularly if tulips have shown signs of disease. ✓



Ear Notchers

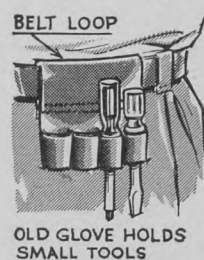
To make a handy ear notcher for young pigs take a pair of old pliers and weld onto the lower jaw a piece of hacksaw blade bent into the shape of a V. Put a layer of solder on the upper jaw and file it level on the surface. When you have completed



this close the pliers so that the V blade makes a nest for itself in the solder. I have found this handy for little pigs since, if they are done young the notch grows bigger as the pigs get older.—J.J.F., Sask. ✓

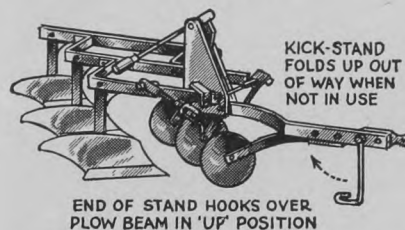
Tool Caddy

Cut the finger ends from an old glove and cut off half the cuff. Turn the other half back and stitch to make a belt loop. This makes a handy tool caddy which can be worn on a waist belt or tacked over the work bench.—H.E.S., B.C. ✓



Plow Stand

Instead of propping a 3-point hitch plow up with a block of wood which can be dangerous, I made this



simple stand as illustrated in the sketch with a piece of 1/2" iron rod bent into shape as shown. The rod

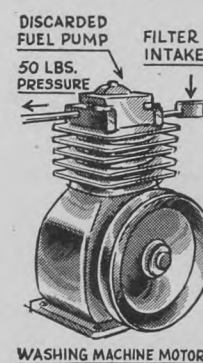
is attached to the plow frame with lock nuts. When not in use it hooks onto the plow-beam.—L.S., Alta. ✓

Clean Saw Blades

Remove accumulated gum and pitch from circular saw blades by placing the blade in a newspaper, then use a stiff brush to apply a coating of full-strength household ammonia. Let it soak for 10 minutes then apply another coat of ammonia. Use the stiff brush again to remove the pitch and gum. Wipe the blade clean and give it a light oil coating.—H.M., Pa. ✓

Air Compressor

Here is a cheap but effective air compressor it took me 2 hours to make. Take an old washing machine engine and a discarded fuel pump. Strip the engine, take out the valves if they are in the way. Take the bottom part of the pump with the two valves, turn it upside down and bolt or clamp it down over the cylinder and the air compressor is complete. This one delivers up to 50 lb. pressure. A larger motor would deliver more than this. — J.K., Sask. ✓



Bolt Saver

Stripped end-threads often result when a bolt is cut down. If the nut is screwed on before you cut the bolt, it can be used as a die to reform the threads on the end.—J.W., Man. ✓

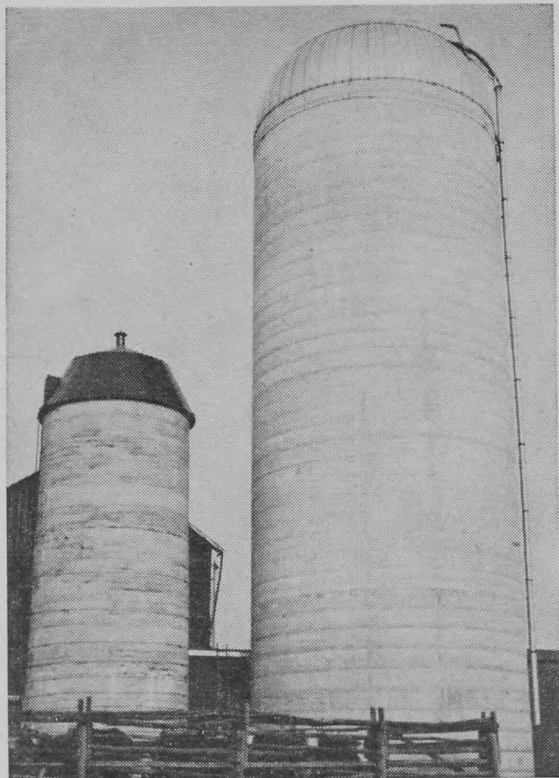
Sighting Device

A simple sighting device can be made by taking a 6" length of 3/4" pipe and cutting a slot in one end. Into the slot place a piece of fine wire. I find the device handy when lining up fence posts.—S.H., Man. ✓

FARM BUILDINGS

The Really Big Silos

This is one of the big ones. It is 30 feet by 80 feet and can hold up to 1,600 tons of silage from 100 acres of land.



[Guide photo]

THE tower silo, long a familiar sight on the Ontario farm scene, is being dwarfed by the really big structures. John R. Stewart, of Strathroy who feeds 700 cattle from the West every year started the trend last fall with a 30' x 80' silo. The foundation is 40' across, is 2 feet thick, set 3 feet in the ground and is reinforced with tons of steel.

The silo has a capacity of 1,600 tons of corn silage and the storage costs work out at about \$9 per ton of forage. Stewart is contemplating adding another 30' to the top. "Another 30' at that height would give a lot of extra pressure and storage might, in effect, be increased by the better part of 50'. This year we ran out of silage in July. The silage supply can be stretched by feeding more grain, but the cheapest gains on the cattle will be made if adequate corn silage is available all year," he said.

Fergus Turnbull, of Grand Bend, put 120 acres of corn silage into his new 30' x 84' silo this fall. Turnbull feeds cattle the year round and estimates the big silo will provide enough silage for 250-300 cattle.

Ed Frieburger, of Greenock, took between 70 and 80 hours to fill his new 24' x 90' silo with an estimated 1,300 tons of corn silage. Frieburger's silo has a foundation 3 feet thick—set 4 feet in the ground. The floor of the silo is a "floating" slab. It is not joined to the silo walls and can tip without affecting the main structure itself.

The three pioneers in the tall look in silos are agreed that big silos are functional, that cost per ton stored tends to go down as size goes up and that the big silos are not significantly harder to fill.

Fergus Turnbull said, "The most important thing with these silos is to have mature corn in the bottom. The pressure becomes so great that they would leak with corn that presents no problem with smaller silos." Ed Frieburger sows three varieties, with some 5 days difference in maturity between each variety, so that he can have mature corn at the bottom and still have suitable silage corn when he fills the upper part of the silo.

John R. Stewart sows an early, a medium and a late corn and says, "We just can't risk having a leaker by filling with immature silage corn."

For Corn Silage

Choose the capacity silo that will provide the required number of feeding days; for feedlot beef this may be the better part of 12 months, for dairy cattle it will vary geographically, but will be in the neighborhood of 240 days per year.

Various combinations of diameter and height will provide this storage room. Pick the diameter silo which will keep top spoilage at the minimum. A 30-cow herd will need a 14' diameter silo—but if a herd increase is a possibility you may be better off to build as much as you can justify of a larger diameter silo, and add to it later. A surplus of silage is wonderful insurance.

For High Moisture Corn

Capacity varies with moisture content; at 30 per cent moisture a 14' x 45' silo will hold 5,000 bushels of shelled corn. For year round hog feeding avoid an excessive surface area which can cause losses of valuable feed.—P.L.

V

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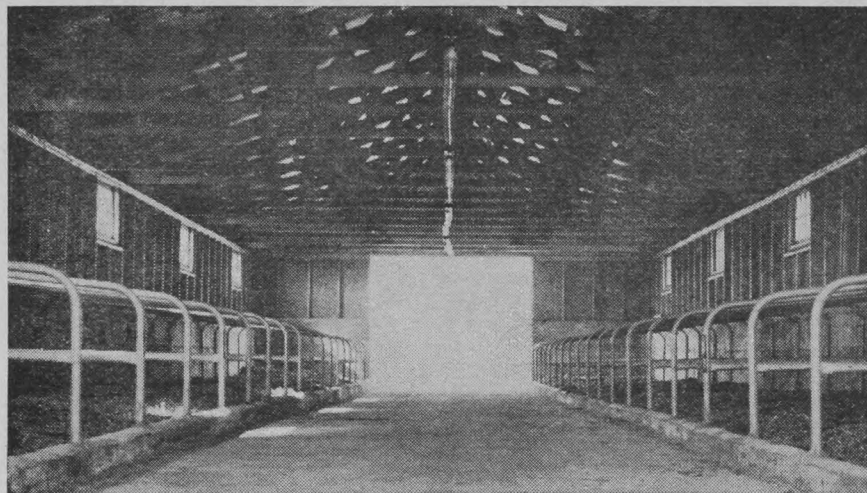
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Another Look at Free Stalls



Weber's free stall barn cost \$4,300 to build. But it requires less bedding than a stanchion barn. Cows stay clean, manure is easily removed from alley. [Guide photo]

"I HAD to do something," Ralph Weber told me. "My cows were too cramped and they required too much straw."

What Weber did at his Twin Willow farm at Dashwood, Ont., was call in Tom Brown, the Agricultural Extension Engineer from Stratford. Together they worked out the new 26' x 100' "W" truss, clear span building with 50 free-choice cow stalls.

The stall partitions are a proprietary make (Chore Boy) and are constructed from 1 3/4" pipe. Cost of the barn including the stall partitions

was \$4,300. Each cow will have a space 4' x 8' as a bedded area. Below the straw are 2 feet of sandy fill. A 4-inch tile runs the length of each row of stalls 3 feet in from the concrete curb. The curb is 8" in height and has a rounded top. This winter will tell whether a ceiling and wall insulation are needed.

There is increased interest in the free stall idea for dairy cattle on several counts:

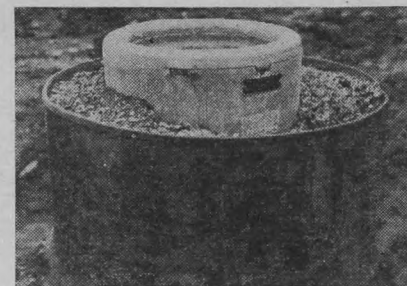
- Less bedding required; less than a stanchion barn and much less than with loose housing.

- Cows stay clean.
- Cows in heat are more easily restrained than in loose housing.
- With a covered yard it provides a semi-loose housing system suitable for the Channel breeds, even in colder areas.
- Manure can be cleared away daily. A slotted floor alley is a further possibility.

The free stall idea, in general, seems to be appealing to dairymen who wish to expand, and to those for whom loose housing has been an unhappy experience. As with all innovations the good has to be weighed with some new problems. Daily cleaning, storing and spreading sloppy manure, all present new problems. The solution may require an adaptation to the tractor loader, a storage tank and a different manure spreader.

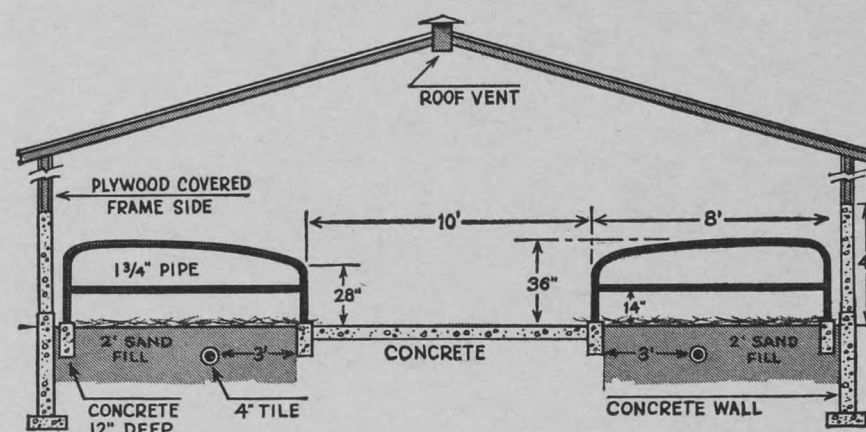
Experience with free stalls has shown that 1-inch board partitions

Water Bowl Insulator



[Guide photo]
Oil drum with ends removed, and filled with wood shavings, provides fine insulation for a stock watering bowl on a farm near Athabasca, Alta.

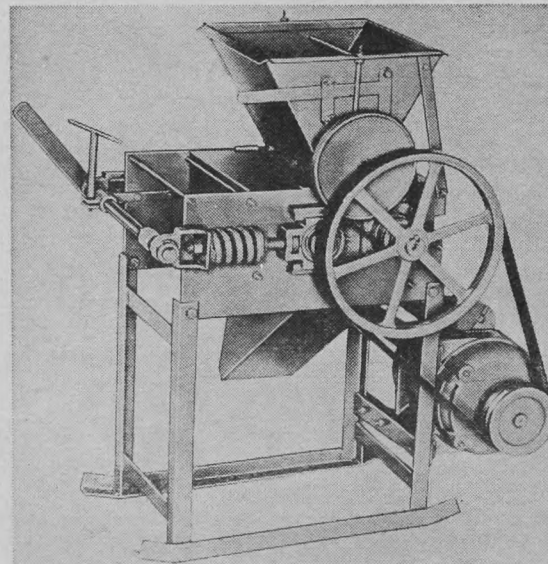
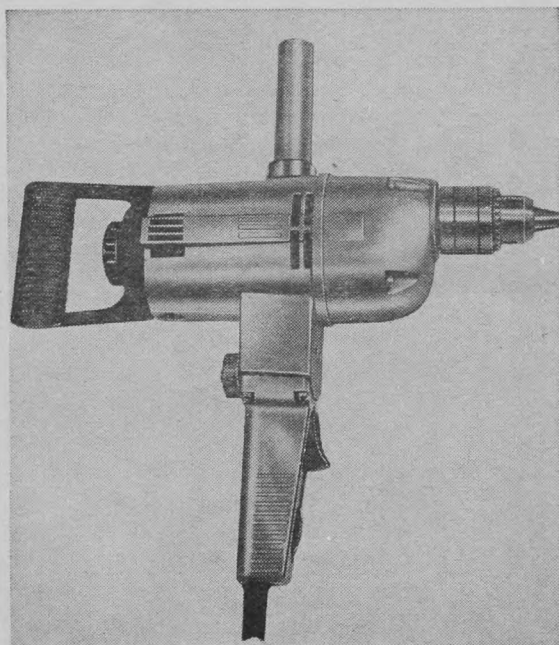
are not satisfactory. A stall cannot be easily lengthened but it can be readily shortened with a baffle board at the front of the stall. Wider alleys are required than was first thought necessary and the width has to increase with the length of the barn.—P.L. V



WHAT'S NEW

Variable Speed Drill

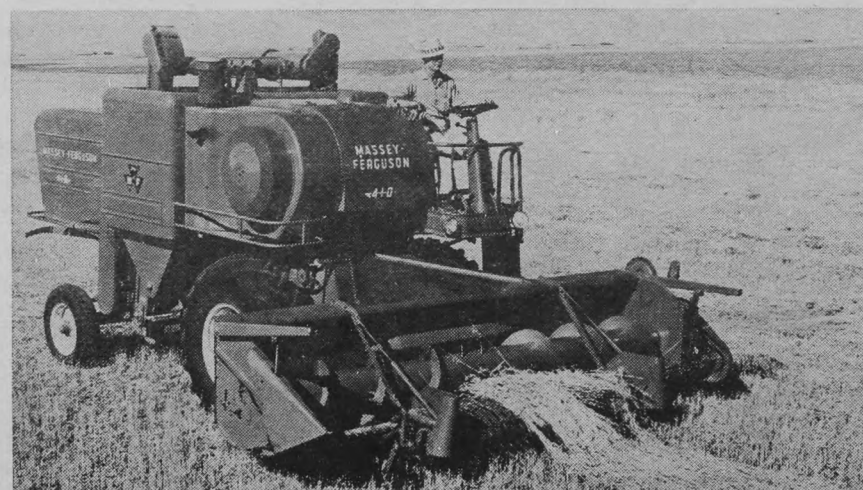
This 1/2" electric drill will deliver 150 r.p.m. for masonry and steel work and up to 500 r.p.m. for wood, plastic, aluminum, etc. Speed is adjusted by turning a dial on the handle. The new power tool carries a 5-year warranty and the motor is guaranteed against burnout. A heavy duty reversing slide switch in the handle gives the tool added versatility. (Thor Power Tool Co.) (444) V



Feedlot Roller Mill

Standard on the new "Feedlot" roller mill are safety release springs, locking mechanism and hopper agitator. Optional equipment includes vertical discharge auger, magnets, trailer and roller chain drive. Available in sizes 6 1/2" x 9" and 6 1/2" x 14". A corn roll capable of producing 450 bu. per hour on the 14" mill and 300 bu. per hour on the 9" mill is also available. (Clay Equipment Corp.) (445) V

High Capacity Combine



The MF 410 self-propelled combine features a choice of an 88 h.p. gasoline or 93 h.p. Perkins diesel engine. Grain hopper capacity is 72 bu. Grain table widths vary from 12 to 18 feet. (Massey-Ferguson Ltd.) (446) V

For further information about any item mentioned in "What's New," write to WHAT'S NEW, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man. Please quote the key number that is shown at the end of each item.

So much to give

by RUTH DRYSDALE

THE car swung onto Main Street and Ellen felt a tingle of excitement in spite of herself. Nervously, she tucked a wisp of gray under the flowered hat that had seen several summers. Since widowed, she seldom allowed herself luxuries, and she reveled in the elegance of a taxi. It helped to offset the bleakness of the deserted station platform, the fruitless search for a familiar face, as the mournful whistle pierced the silence and the train rumbled out of sight.

Seeing familiar landmarks from the train window — the turreted silo on MacBains' farm, the white buildings of the fair grounds — had aroused the prickly nostalgia of homecoming. But there was an emptiness, and the nagging worry that coming back to Maple Grove had been a mistake. As if she half-expected to relive those old days, vibrant with the interests of two growing boys — days of being needed, of

being part of the mainstream of living—yet knowing everything had changed, that families grew up, and friends, like leaves slipping from the tree, passed on, or moved away.

"You know the city, ma'am?" the driver called back.

"Yes . . . yes, indeed," she answered wistfully, as the car sped down tree-shaded streets that seemed a part of her. Past Carters' weeping birch, and the bungalow, where her son, Chris, and Marian had spent the first year of a marriage that hadn't lasted. Ellen had gone to keep house for him afterwards, and she kept thinking now of little things to tell him—things that brought a stabbing realization she wouldn't see him again for a long time. She knew he hadn't really expected her to come back.

"Of course you're going with me," he had insisted, when the engineering job in South America first came up.

But she had noticed the relief on his face, when she declined. He was being kind, but he was still

Illustrated by
MANLY GELLER



young enough to launch a new life. He didn't need her any more. And, alone again, where was there to go, except back where the roots were deepest? Then, too, there was the boy, Chris's boy. She wondered what he looked like now, and whether Marian would let her see him.

She leaned forward. "Could you go a little slower, please?" She wanted to make it last, to absorb every detail. There was the Andersons' high-gabled brick. She caught the scent of their honeysuckle hedge. And across from it the green-shuttered house, that had been their own home so many years. It tugged now at her heart, with a rush of memories. Ghosts of the past. She must steel herself to keep them in their rightful place, where they could enrich her life without distorting it. "I've been away five years," she explained.

"Good spot to come back to. Wouldn't live anywhere else."

Maple Grove, she reflected, was just the right size. Small enough to feel you belonged, yet large enough for a sense of privacy. Not like the big cities, where people were in too much of a hurry to care about you, or even say "good-morning."

"The house with the vines," she called out.

"Oh, yeah, Edie Potter's place."

Edie had never been on Ellen's social level, but her good nature embraced all humanity, and she kept a respectable house. Her letter had replied she had a "tastefully decorated room," and perhaps it wouldn't be as lonely there as among strangers.

"Well, now," Edie puffed, leading the way up the narrow stairs, and along a dark hallway. "Think we can fix you up real cozy." She turned on a lamp in the small bed-sitting room, and glanced around with a note of pride. "See what I mean? Don't suppose I need to mention about no visitors after 11 p.m." She gave Ellen a sly nudge. "Have to have rules, you know."

Ellen forced a smile, as she surveyed the room, with its dingy walls, the limp, frayed curtains and the faded chintz on the studio couch. "Yes . . ." she tried to swallow the ache in her throat. "This will do nicely." She had so hoped for a bright, front room, where she could see children playing, people and cars going by. She glanced out at the array of clothes lines and hydro wires, at the sagging, unpainted garage, and the bent-lidded trash can that leaned sullenly against it.

"Never thought we'd see you back here, bless your heart, never did," Edie beamed.

Ellen warmed to her interest. "There seemed to be no reason to stay in Montreal, after Chris left."

"Oh, yes . . . Chris." Edie's face clouded. "Hear tell Marian came back and married again . . . fella by the name of Fletcher. Live not far from here."

"And the boy . . . Peter his name is . . . he's six now." Ellen felt a catch in her breath. "Do you ever see him?"

"Well, now, can't rightly say I do. So many young-uns around. Don't pay much attention." Edie gave Ellen a pat, as if anxious to change the

subject. "Say, fleshed up a bit, haven't you?"

Counting out bills, Ellen's quiet dignity was slightly jarred. She glanced down at the figure she thought reasonably trim for sixty-five years, and back at the buxom Edie, with her wispy, orange-tinted hair. "Perhaps . . . a little."

"Fine, thanks . . . just right," Edie puffed, taking the money. "You straighten away, now, and I'll put on a kettle. Nothing like a nice cup of tea. Any plans?" she called back from the hall.

"No . . . no plans." Ellen gingerly tested the bounce of the studio couch. "Maybe a little housekeeping . . . whatever I can find."

The strangeness of her surroundings, permeated with the odor of boiled cabbage and the lingering acridness of a cleaning solution, engulfed her in a wave of nausea. It was all wrong. She didn't want tea with Edie Potter in this dreary place. She ached for her own home that was gone, and to be needed and wanted again. She sighed. Perhaps a few of her things around would help.

Fondly, she placed each of her framed pictures under the oval mirror on the dresser. The one of Michael, smiling and handsome, with his Air Force cap at a jaunty angle—Michael, who hadn't come back. A graduation picture of Chris, taken before his hairline receded, and one of Peter beside his father's. Just a baby then, the smile on the dimpled face showing two teeth. It wasn't hard to recall the thrill of his arrival — her first grandchild, and a boy to carry on the name of Winfield. With special tenderness, she set out the last picture. She remembered so well the day it was taken. Just after Bert had been appointed sales manager. There was so little time after that. The trip they had planned, the things they had put off, were suddenly, irrevocably gone. "Bert," she whispered, hands clenched, "Why couldn't we have had these years together!"

THE summer slipped into fall, and Ellen wasn't sure if it was pride, or sensitivity to Marian's brusqueness that restrained an anxiety to see Peter. She knew the number by heart, and what she would say, but when she picked up the phone, her heart thumped so wildly, she never completed the call. She remembered, after the separation, how difficult Marian had been, until finally Chris had given up trying to see Peter. She feared the withering response an inquiry might arouse now.

Often she walked slowly past the Fletcher house, hoping for a glimpse of Peter, until one time when she did hear high-spirited voices behind their picket fence. It was the kind of autumn day, touched with smoky crispness, that stirs people to rake leaves and share neighborly confidences. Surely Marian wouldn't harbor ill-will if she called at the gate. But as she reached it, a sidewalk-size cowboy bounded through, colliding violently with her.

"Sorry . . ." he sputtered, breathlessly. "Did'ja wanta see my Mom? She's in the house."

Ellen's chest constricted. "Yes . . . no . . . no, never mind, thanks." He was so like Chris—the same spark-



"Just wait till Rachel Carson hears what you did to Julius!"

ling, brown eyes, the fine features, and upturned mouth. For a moment she couldn't take her eyes off him. Then, the months of pent-up longing released, she swept him into her arms. "Oh, Peter . . . it's you. It's you I want to see." Her cheek was damp against the warm softness of his, but he struggled free and stood gazing at her with puzzled concern.

"What's the matter? Why are you crying?" He wiped his sleeve across his cheek.

"I'm not . . . really," she smiled mistily. "I'm just so glad to see you. You see, I'm your Grandmother, and it's been a long time."

"But I already have two Grandmas in Toronto. I don't even know you."

Suddenly, with a sickening sense of discovered guilt, she was aware of Marian behind him.

"I heard you were back." Marian offered a half-smile, but there was little warmth in it.

"I . . . I just happened to be going by," Ellen fumbled.

"Peter," Marian turned to him, "you run and play. I want to talk to the lady."

"She says she's my Grandma." Peter screwed up his face quizzically. "How come?"

A heavy silence settled on them, as he backed away, unanswerd, and Marian turned to Ellen. "I can understand your wanting to see him — this once. But there was really no point in telling him, was there?"

"I think he should know . . ."

"Why?" Marian interrupted. "Peter has never known any father but Dick. It's better that way." There was a tremor in her voice, but her gaze was direct. "Chris isn't part of us now. That's over. Why confuse or upset Peter with it?"

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset him." Ellen felt a rush of color to her cheeks. She wanted to lash out wildly, against the barrier that cut her off from the only love still left in her narrowing world. But she knew she was beaten. She had never stood up to people, or fought for happiness. Until recently, happiness came easily.

"Surely you can see—it's for Peter's sake," Marian added apologetically, as if rationalizing her irritation.

"I'm sorry," Ellen repeated softly. She could see Peter at the gate. There was an understanding look on his face, as if he wanted to reach out to her. A man with a pleasant smile sauntered up, and put a hand on Peter's shoulder. He must be Dick—Dick beside Peter — where Chris should have been. A burning resent-

ment added to the sting of the encounter; she turned away quickly.

Her footsteps heavy on the stairs to her room, she was grateful for the warmth of Edie's voice below.

"That you, Ellen? I just put the kettle on."

IT bothered her conscience that she had considered Edie beneath her. What did it matter now how refined her friends had been? Not that she had ever been a "joiner." Her own family, and the guiding of countless hands on the piano keyboard, had been her world. Now it was gone, she didn't seem to fit in anywhere. She did contact a few she had known. There was Madge Davis, who had visited her in a glow of holiday friendliness in Montreal. With eager expectancy, Ellen had called her almost as soon as she arrived back.

"Oh, yes . . . Ellen . . . nice you're back." The tepidness in Madge's response hadn't been noticeable in Montreal. "We must get together . . . soon. I'll call you."

But the weeks rolled by, and like the others, wrapped up in the interests of husbands and families, she didn't call. Still, Ellen didn't mind the daytime too much, except at Christmas, when the knife-edge of loneliness cut deepest, and she was thankful for Edie's good-natured companionship. One couple — old friends of Bert's—promised to call for her on Christmas Eve. She put on her good figured dress, the one that made her feel festive, and waited by the window. Through the maze of swirling snowflakes, she could see colored lights on the next street. But nobody called, and after awhile she hung up the dress and went to bed. It was mostly in the long, dark hours at night that the walls of the small room crowded in on her.

She tried not to think about Peter, or things she might have said to Marian. Unfamiliar situations worried her, but now and then a housekeeping job helped to pass the time, and stretch her income. Sometimes, when reading or knitting palled, and the radio crackled, she had tea and biscuits down town, and occasionally ran into somebody she knew—somebody out of the past, to give her the feeling she still belonged.

There was a waiting room where she could watch the people, caught up momentarily in the fleeting drama of other lives—tense, hurried lives, most of them, irritable with each other, impatient with tired children, and with petty annoyances so vital at the time, so trivial in retrospect. Watching them took her back down the line of small, almost forgotten memories, to days when she thought she was too busy to comply with all the requests of small boys—requests that would never be asked again. She remembered one time Michael had wanted her to fix a kite.

"Later," she had put him off. "Later" never materialized, but another boy's mother had found the time. Funny, she thought, how you remembered such little moments, and forgot ones that seemed important then. She wanted to call out, now, to hurrying people around her. "Why don't you take time to live, to enjoy every minute together? It goes by so fast, so terribly fast!"

ON nice days, her walk for groceries was planned so she passed the school, just as the children surged out in a wave of noisy exuberance. Sometimes she saw Peter, and would watch until he was long out of sight before hoisting the groceries to her other arm and going slowly back to the empty room. Just seeing him gave her an inner glow. Her grandchild! Once she pretended to lose an earring in the snow, when she saw him coming. Perhaps he would help her look. But he went on without noticing. A little girl with pigtails and laughing eyes picked it up, but she didn't stop to talk.

It was after one of her walks in the early spring, that she was greeted by Edie, in a glory of pink hair curlers.

"A call from the agency, Ellen."

Her spirits soared with renewed hope, on hearing it was a housekeeping request only a few doors from the Fletchers'. There was only one boy, Tim Moffat, about Peter's age, and with the parents away, she would have the run of the house for two weeks.

It was a heaven-sent oasis, and she savored every moment of it. A whole house, with deep-piled rugs and beautiful furnishings, a gleaming kitchen instead of a hot plate, and someone depending on her! A few days after her arrival, Peter appeared at the door with Tim. He flashed her a shy smile, his front teeth missing.

"Aren't you the lady who said you were my Grandma?" he asked.

"That's right," she tried to keep emotion out of her voice, "and I happen to have some special cookies." If Marian thought she was just a meddlesome old woman, she would show her it didn't have to be like that.

"Is she really your Grandma?" she heard Tim ask, as they jumped off the top step.

"I dunno," Peter shrugged. "Says she is."

"Gosh, I wish she was mine. She's real neat."

"What's she do?"

"Stuff like this." He held up the cookies. "And all kinds of stories. She can gobble like a turkey, and she knows lots about frogs and things. And she doesn't get mad."

"Gee," Peter said, plaintively, "I wish my Mom and Dad would go away."

Ellen closed the door softly, and leaned against it, her eyes closed.

Peter called every day, then, and proudly showed her his school work. "Mom's always kinda busy," he told her.

On her last day at the Moffats', she had gingerbread and lemonade ready. They would have a real party—one to be remembered. But Tim arrived alone.

"Where's Peter?" she asked.

Tim shrugged. "Gone home. His Mom said he couldn't come any more, when she found out you were here. He isn't supposed to talk to you."

BACK in her own room, Ellen watched the heavy raindrops beating into the soggy remnants of blackened snow. She wouldn't have

mind so much coming back, if only Peter had come that one last time. Two untarnished weeks she could have cherished for the rest of her days. She could hear the splashing of the stream from the bottom of the garage drainpipe, and occasionally a gust of wind rattled the rain, like gravel, against the pane. She sat motionless, until the network of wires, weaving parallel patterns against an inky sky, merged with the blackness of night, and she could no longer make out the pictures on her dresser.

It was the ringing of the telephone below that penetrated her consciousness.

"Ellen," Edie's shrill voice called. "For you."

Her knees were worse in damp weather, and she was slow getting down the stairs.

"Mrs. Winfield? It's Mrs. Moffat. A baby sitter at the Fletchers' called here. She says the Fletchers are out of town until late tonight, and Peter is sick. He's asking for you."

"Oh, no," Ellen gasped. "I couldn't possibly go."

There was a pause at the other end. "That's too bad. He'll be upset."

Ellen hesitated. "No, wait . . . I will go. Yes, of course I'll go. Right away."

Only a few blocks. She would manage. She scarcely noticed the lashing wind that took her breath, or the stinging rain that pelted her face. She thought only of Peter. Peter sick, and he wanted her! She would worry about Marian later.

"Oh, hi," a young girl greeted her at the door. "Am I ever glad to see you! He's croupy—having an awful time breathing. The vaporizer's on, but I didn't know what else to do. Sure scary!"

Ellen nodded, gripped by icy fear, but her voice was calm.

"I'll stay, if you like, until his . . . his parents . . . come home."

"O.K." the girl said almost eagerly. "Guess there's no need for both of us." She was already climbing into her coat.

Peter stirred when she tiptoed into the dimly lighted room that smelled of menthol. She could hear the rasp of his breathing above the bubbling of water, and the gentle hiss of steam.

"Now, then, what's this?" she said, sitting on the edge of the bed.

"You did come," he cried, clinging to her. She could feel the feverish warmth of the small body that struggled for air with hoarse, piercing gasps.

"You're all right," she patted him soothingly. "I'll be right back. Just going to get more steam on."

She didn't know how long she sat holding the blanketed figure in the steamy darkness, humming songs she hadn't sung since nights of measles and earaches when her own boys were small. She'd have stayed, motionless, all night, rather than disturb him. But the labored breathing finally eased, and he looked at her intently.

"How come you said you were my Grandma?"

"Because you have two Daddies—another one who loves you, too, even

though he's far away and can't see you."

"A really one?"

"Yes, a really one. He used to be my little boy."

"Gosh, that's kinda special, isn't it?"

"Very special," she whispered.

"I like you." He yawned sleepily. "Can you really gobble like a turkey?"

She wanted to pour out a love he hadn't understood, but the choked-up words didn't come. Leaning over, she kissed him lightly on the forehead. She was still on the edge of the bed, when she heard the front door close, and voices below. She took a deep breath, and waited in an agony of tension as footsteps approached.

"What on earth . . . !" Marian stood in the lighted doorway.

"Shhh," Ellen whispered. "He's just gone off. Croup—but he's all right now." She tiptoed out to the hall.

"Oh? He had only a slight cold when we left." Skeptically, Marian glanced in at Peter, before following Ellen. "And what are you doing here?" There was a deep vertical line between her eyes. "I thought it was clear you were to have nothing to do with Peter."

Ellen swung around at the bottom of the stairs, eyes blazing. "Your child sick," she said, her voice rising. "And all you care about is what I'm doing here. All right then, I'm here because you weren't. Peter was frightened and needed you . . . and he asked for me. He's still Chris's boy, Marian, my flesh and blood, too. I can't turn off being his grandmother like . . . like turning off a machine . . . because you don't choose to live with his father."

Marian and Dick stared, in stunned silence, at the trembling woman.

"Now," she said, struggling for control. "If I may have my coat, please."

"Yes, yes, of course." Dick fumbled nervously, as he held her coat. "I'll drive you home." He flashed a questioning look at Marian. "It was good of you to come. Uh . . . how much do we owe you?"

"Owe me?" Ellen looked at him blankly. "Owe me, for something I've been wanting so much to give?" She shook her head. "Perhaps," she said quietly, "there are some things the old can still give to the young."

"Wait," Marian caught her arm, and drew her back from the open door. "I don't really know how to say this . . . but I appreciate what you did."

She studied Ellen a moment. "I'm sorry . . . I guess I forget you and Peter had nothing to do with our problems. I didn't think of it your way." There was still a curtness in her tone. Still Marian. But something in her expression had softened. "Maybe," she said slowly, "Peter needs what you can give."

Although the night was almost over, Ellen didn't feel tired. She could hear the howl of the wind, but there was a warmth about the little room at Edie's she hadn't noticed before. She smiled at the four pictures on the dresser. "It's all right, Bert," she whispered, turning out the lamp. "It is good to be home again."

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What's for Dinner, Mom?

Sometimes Mom wonders too. It's not always easy to think up new ideas to satisfy those appetites, which seem to need satisfying at all hours of the day. If you've tried any of The Country Guide recipes lately, or any of our homemaking ideas, why not let us have your comments at The Country Guide, Winnipeg 21, Man.

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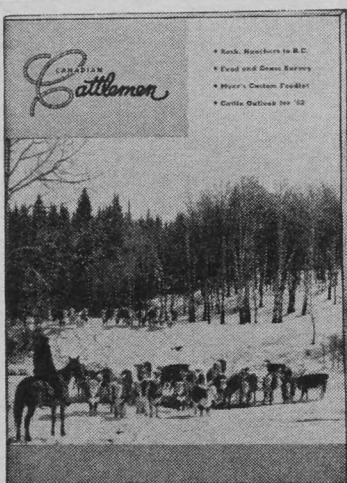
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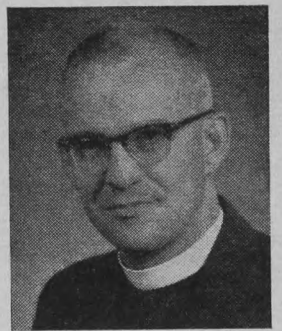
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Let's Think It Over

by THE VERY REV. M. L. GOODMAN



It's Your Choice

Christmas can be kept at several levels. The first, I suppose, is the "mechanical" level—that is we go through the motions because we feel we must. Sometimes we're glad when it's over. We had to exert ourselves (not to mention the budget) to buy presents and cards. Our routine has been badly disrupted. There was no real joy for us.

The second level is sentiment. We're moved by the colors, lights, trees, carols and by dear memories. We're touched by the excitement of a child, but behind our sentiment there may be sadness and a kind of emptiness.

The third level is social. The list of parties, duty calls and visits is a long one and seems to take up all our time, crowding out everything else. This too may bring a sigh of relief when it's over.

The only way you can KEEP Christmas is to build it around Christ. There can be no true celebration of Christmas unless we plan to worship somewhere and somehow. Today we need to make a firm resolution that nothing—presents, dinners, friends, social engagements—nothing is going to keep us from worshipping Christ on his birthday and giving thanks to God for his "unspeakable gift."

Suggested Scripture: St. John I, vss. 1-14.

???? And a New Year

Whether we realize it or not, a time of special challenge is upon every one of us who calls himself a Christian. The challenge is *not* represented by the hydrogen bomb, Communism, integration, the United Nations, etc., although it is related to all these in a certain way.

It can be represented in these four questions:

1. Will Christians, in obedience to their Master, seek unity with vigor, patience and love?
2. Will Christians begin to live the life of Christ in their community — so that the unbelieving and the careless can see the difference that Christ makes?
3. Will Christians learn such brotherly love that they will disarm all suspicion and begin to carry the essence of the gospel in Christ's name to the four corners of the earth?
4. Will Christians be ready to sacrifice their pleasures and their possessions, in sharing with a needy world?

Suggested Scripture: Revelation III, vss. 14-19.

Take the Paper Off

I have heard of a strange old man who never opened gifts. He liked to receive them but it was the pretty wrapping that fascinated him. He kept the gifts, piling them up year after year—a meaningless heap which was worse than useless because it took up so much room.

You and I won't do that, come Christmas. The paper and the seals are fine; but we will want to see what's inside. In some cases you can't even tell who the gifts are from until you get the paper off!

So many of us have never unwrapped God's gifts. We are pleased with what he gives. We pile up the gifts, but we never "take the paper off" to see what's inside.

Our daily bread comes to us and, though we may nod gratefully in God's direction, that's about all there is to it. We haven't unwrapped the gift to behold the love and responsibility which is inside.

We share the blessings of hospitals and the whole wonderful ministry to the sick, and we may never ask—how did it all begin? We acknowledge the rightness of freedom for the individual, and we accept our own freedom without ever considering how or why it was secured.

Some men are inclined to credit these good things to humanitarianism; but the very idea of the value of the human being comes from God, and all these other ideas of unselfish charity and love had their beginning as convictions in the minds of those who sought to follow Him.

TAKE OFF the wrappings and see the real gift inside, with God's name on it.

Suggested Scripture: II Corinthians, IX.

A Blessed Christmas to You All!—M.L.G.

THE COUNTRY GUIDE

by BLANCHE M. KENNEDY

John's starting out through darkness and
through storm
To see each animal is bedded warm
Within the barn. The lantern's little glow
Is haloed by the thickly falling snow.
I wish that walls might shelter and enfold
All helpless things that tremble in the cold,
And cower from the north wind's icy thrust
In branch and thicket . . . oh, I wish that just
This one night there might be no fear or pain
In all the world . . . I'll dress the doll for Jane,
And fill the stockings afterward . . . the sled
John made our boy looks fine now, painted
red—

So pleased they'll be . . . Besides the
treasured toy

I want to give bright memories of joy
To gleam like this gold ball upon the tree
In after-years . . . If only it could be
That every little one slept sound upstairs,
Secure, and warm with knowing someone
cares . . .

Perhaps John's right—'tis foolishness to grieve
For suff'ring one can't see or help relieve.

This homely room is beautiful tonight
With more than seasoned birch logs
blazing bright,
And wreaths of pine . . . it seems to dream
and wait,
As though it hoped that someone passing late
Would seek and bless its comfort and
its cheer . . .

The legend that I read aloud this year
Was strange: that Christ Himself,
in shabby guise,
Returns to earth on Christmas Eve and tries
To find a bed . . .

Dear Lord, I pray if You,
In threadbare coat and broken shoes
torn through,
Are wandering about from door to door,
That one will open wide to You . . .
Before we sleep, I ask You to accept my gift—
A candle shining out across the drift
So that Your Night will have one tiny star . . .
(Although its beams won't carry very far,
And none will see it there.)

Toward dawn, the night
Grew deeply still. Behind the pane the light
Burned steadily, though once the yellow flame
Bent sideways, as it would if someone came
Across the threshold, letting in a rush
Of frosty air. No earth-sound broke the hush,
But in her dreams she heard a voice,
and smiled.
"I found your light and open heart, my child."

Illustrated by EMILE LALIBERTE

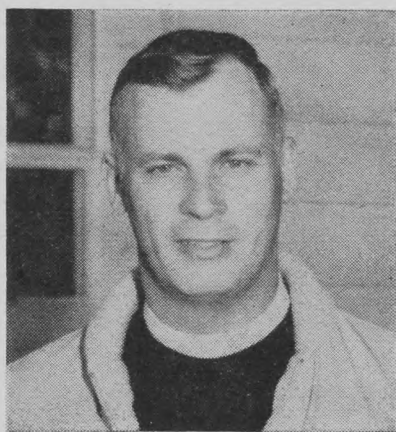
A Woman's Thoughts On Christmas Eve



Christmas at Driftwillow

These young people decided to build an outdoor temple and to keep the money changers away

by CLIFF FAULKNER



THE PEOPLE: Artist Catherine Evins, Nanton, Alta., and Anglican minister Ted Weare, of the Claresholm-Nanton parish, helped district young people to produce a unique outdoor pageant.



THE PLACE: This deep coulee on Jean Hoare's Driftwillow Ranch provided the setting for the Christmas pageant. It lies just below the ranch buildings.

IN this Babylon we call the Twentieth Century, Christmas has become a commercial orgy. Above the noisy shouts of the hucksters, the Greatest Story Ever Told comes through as a mere whisper. December 25 is Good Business, and everybody who has an angle tries to work the Nativity into it some place. From September to Christmas Eve their sales pitch roars and crackles until the whole country is aflame with it.

But at Driftwillow Ranch, some young people of the Claresholm and Nanton areas have started a backfire. This takes the form of an outdoor Christmas pageant where live actors show five Nativity scenes against a backdrop of dry, sage-girt hills not unlike the Holy Land. The group charges no admission, pays no wages and accepts no favors which have strings attached. If you want to help, your only reward must be the inner satisfaction of being a part of it. Efforts by business groups to take over the pageant and promote it as a tourist gimmick have been politely but firmly resisted.

The idea was born when young people of the Anglican parish of Claresholm-Nanton were looking for a new Christmas project. They wanted to try something quite different from the usual concerts or plays—a project with no commercial aspects and no connection with any fund-raising drives. During an AYPAs meeting, Rev. Ted Weare, their pastor, suggested an outdoor Christmas tableau. For some time he'd been talking this idea over with Mrs. Catherine Evins, a Nanton artist.

"It sounded like a wild idea at best," Mrs. Evins admits, "but once the young people started to really talk it over everything began to fall into place."

Convincing others in the district was another matter. "An outdoor pageant in December! You must be crazy!" Some came out flatly and said the whole scheme was impossible.

Young people of other churches were invited to participate. A Lutheran group from Stavely and a United Church group from Claresholm offered their services. In all, about 60 took part. Others were interested but didn't want to commit themselves until they knew what they were getting into.

"We won't have any trouble getting help this year," Catherine Evins smiled. "Everybody is enthusiastic about the pageant now."

THE next step was to find a place to hold it. Members who lived on farms or ranches wanted the pageant held on their property. The big trouble was to find a spot which was both near No. 2 highway, and wired for power so the scenes could be lighted.

Mrs. Jean Hoare of Driftwillow Ranch solved this problem by offering use of the deep ravine or coulee where Willow Creek flows past their ranch buildings on its way to its junction with the Oldman River.

It was an ideal location. The road to the ranch (and the power poles which follow it) runs due west from No. 2 for 4 miles, then swings north along the rim of the coulee for a short distance. This put the power poles above most of the sets. There was another advantage to this location. It gave visitors a complete view of the pageant before they drove on down to see each tableau.

"You can do anything you want with the land," Mrs. Hoare told them.

This was a big break for the pageanteers for they had to cut a mile-and-a-half of new road through the pasture so people could drive around. And not too many owners care to have hundreds of cars moving through their property.

It was decided the pageant would consist of five scenes: The Enunciation, showing Mary and the Angel; Bethlehem, with Joseph and Mary entering the town, surrounded by other people going to pay their taxes; Shepherds on the hillside; The Nativity, with Joseph, Mary and the Child in the manger with farm animals around them; and a scene to represent today's universal Church.

Mrs. Evins designed both the Church and Bethlehem scenes. The Church scene consisted of three Gothic arches, graduated in size, standing one in front of the other. Before the arches stood an altar flanked by two candles. Amber footlights accented the shadows cast by the arches.

A group of girls thatched the roof of an old shack in the trees by Willow Creek, as the centerpiece for the Enunciation. Partway up the

coulee slope, some boys built the stable and manger from rough lumber.

Their next job was to round up about 2½ miles of electrical cable, some spotlights and clothing. They asked for blankets, sheets and robes, especially colored ones. If the clothing didn't have enough color, would the owners mind if they dyed it? By this time, nobody cared what they did as long as the plan went forward. Claresholm women supplied all the cloth needed.

Another question. What about animals? A tableau should have live animals. They'd need a camel—possibly two—and some goats and donkeys.

"We wanted at least one camel," Mrs. Evins said. "The Calgary Zoo was willing to help, but a large animal like this couldn't be loaned without a keeper and all the keepers had other commitments. They did let us have a donkey and three black-and-tan goats, however."

HELP came from many quarters. A congregation member volunteered to travel the 70 miles to Calgary and get these animals, and Dr. Andy Little of Nanton contributed his pet donkey "Angelita." Then a municipal road crew said it would grade a road through the coulee bottom for them. A United Church member from Claresholm, Bill Bell, offered to do all the electrical and sound work they needed. As these offers came, the call went out to all the churches to round up every bit of cable they could lay their hands on. Odds and ends poured in.

"Our biggest problem was the lighting," Catherine Evins stated.

Then a power company gang suddenly arrived and set up two transformers. One hour after the start of rehearsals, the gas company sent a portable power plant so the far side of the display could be lighted without flares, as intended. An electrical firm came through with cable and spotlights. There was even a black light, but the youngsters couldn't drum up the fluorescent paint needed to make it effective.

"We also wanted to wire each set for sound but began to run out of both time and equip-

ment," said Mrs. Evins. "However, Christ Church (Calgary) supplied us with a tape recording of their bells."

The cold was another problem, especially on scenes such as the Nativity where performers had to remain still. Fortunately, the flowing robes of Biblical days allowed plenty of room for warm underclothing. Another well-wisher, John Slade, loaned a trailer which the Nanton Women's Auxiliary used as a sort of modern chuckwagon. They kept a steady supply of coffee and sandwiches on hand all the time.

"The trailer was located a little too close to Bethlehem," Catherine Evins smiled. "Citizens who were supposed to be intent on paying taxes kept nipping in for a spot of coffee."

THE big night arrived. What if nobody came after all their work? Then a cavalcade of cars began to roll into Driftwillow. In the lead was the Bishop of Calgary, the Right Rev. G. R. Calvert. He opened the pageant.

As the number of cars increased, traffic headaches developed. A neighboring farmer came to the aid of the young people by allowing an exit road through his property. Four miles east, the Mounties were having a bonanza giving cars tickets. With one car following another so closely in the darkness, many failed to notice the highway stop sign. After five hapless motorists had been nicked, the young people set up their own traffic control.

At the pageant scene, many people left their cars to get a closer view of the sets, which gummed up traffic on the whole route.

The second night brought a howling blizzard and the program had to be cancelled. Local radio and TV stations went on the air at regular intervals with free time to announce the postponement. At the height of the trumpeting storm the walls of "Bethlehem" blew down and had to be re-erected.

Next day the weather cleared and the pageant went on, this time with a blanket of soft snow over the coulee. But cars came streaming down in record numbers. At the end of the 3-day pageant an estimated 3,000 people had viewed the scenes and gone home satisfied. This was accomplished with no advertising except spot announcements donated by local radio stations, plus some posters made by a Claresholm parishioner.

"We did what we set out to do," Mr. Weare said jubilantly. "By enacting scenes of those early times we made it possible for many people to recapture some of the real significance of Christmas."

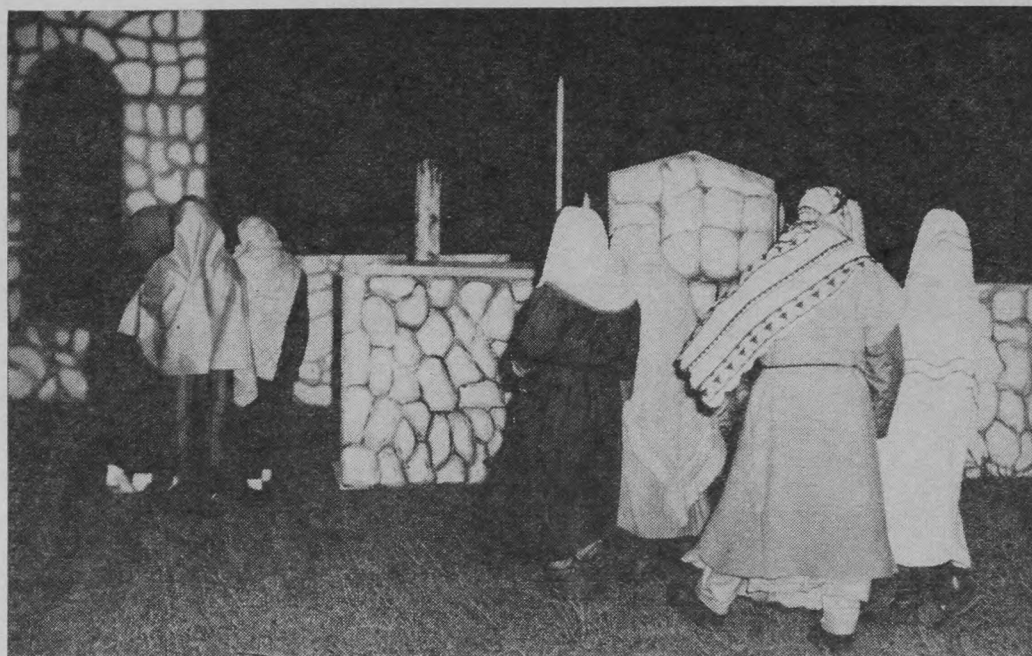
WHEN it was all over, Mrs. Evins attempted to add up the cost of the pageant in terms of labor and equipment. She found it a hopeless task. "I reached \$20,000 and gave up," she laughed. The young people exhausted their own funds on the project. Later, all debts were cleared up by donations.

One point that had been overlooked was that the pageant came at a time when young people were writing exams. Adults who gave their time to it found they'd neglected to shop or send out their Christmas cards. As a result, the opening date will be advanced about a week this year.

Now the outdoor Christmas tableau is looked on as a permanent fixture by the people of the Claresholm-Nanton area. There's talk of drawing up some sort of constitution to prevent it from becoming commercialized. For 3 nights a year they wish to create a replica of ancient Bethlehem, ungarnished by souvenir booths or hot dog stands.

"Many times after we started we'd come up against some unforeseen obstacle and feel we couldn't go on," Catherine Evins said. "But when we saw that whole coulee full of cars, bumper to bumper, we knew it had all been worthwhile." ✓

THE PAGEANT:



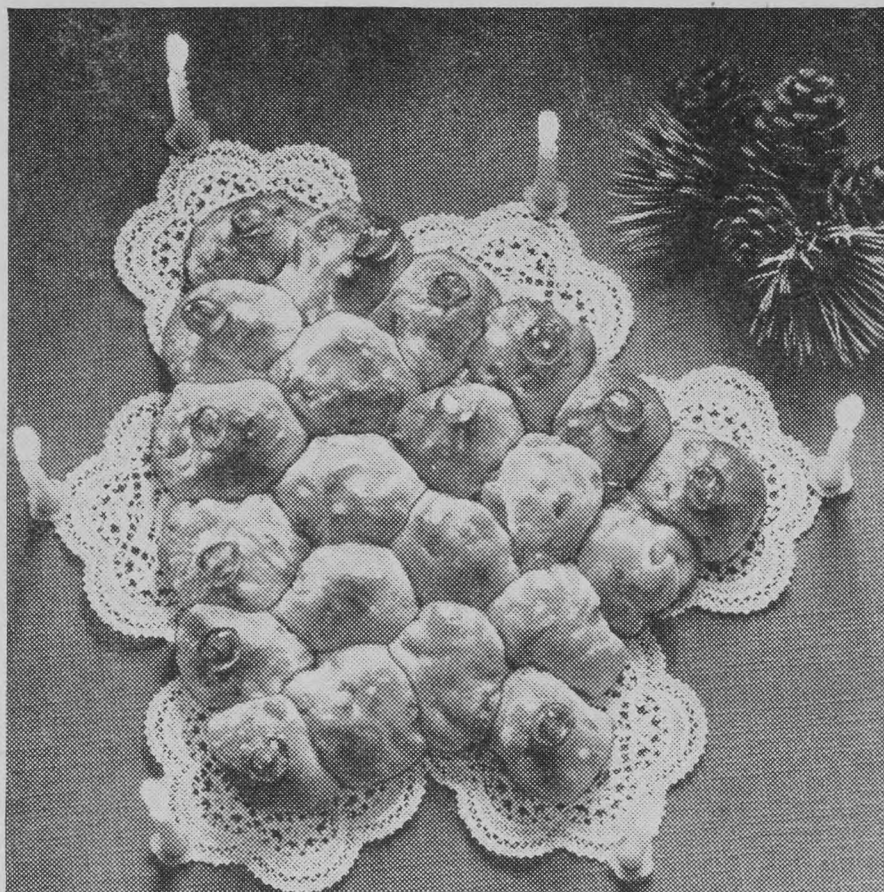
THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM



JOSEPH AND MARY



THE NATIVITY



Sugar Plum Tree

FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE...

When you bake at home use Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast for guaranteed results! Just follow this simple recipe and your "Sugar Plum Trees" will 'burst into bloom'... a truly unusual and appetizing Christmas treat for your entire family.

You'll Need:

¾ cup milk
½ cup granulated sugar
1½ tps. salt
½ cup shortening
½ cup lukewarm water
2 tps. granulated sugar
2 envelopes Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast
2 eggs, well beaten
2 tps. finely grated lemon rind
¾ cup golden seedless raisins
½ cup cut mixed peel
⅔ cup red and/or green glacé cherries, chopped
4½ cups (about) pre-sifted all purpose flour

Soft butter or Blue Bonnet Margarine
6 tps. granulated sugar
¾ cup liquid honey
3 tps. butter or Blue Bonnet Margarine
Green sugar crystals or "Non-pareils" (optional)

Scald milk. Stir in ½ cup sugar, salt and shortening. Cool to lukewarm.

Meantime, measure lukewarm water into large mixing bowl. Stir in the 2 tablespoons sugar. Sprinkle yeast on top. Let stand 10 minutes; then stir well.

Stir in lukewarm milk mixture, eggs and 2 cups of the flour. Beat until smooth. Combine and stir in lemon rind, raisins, peel and cherries. Mix in enough additional flour, about 2½ cups, to make a soft dough.

Turn out on lightly floured board. Knead until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, lightly brush with soft butter or margarine. Cover. Let rise in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.

Punch down dough; turn out on lightly floured board. Halve the dough. Shape one half into a roll about 11 inches long. Cut into 22 equal pieces.

Shape 21 of these into smooth balls. Arrange these on a large, shallow-sided greased baking sheet (at least 11 inches wide) in a triangle (tree shape). Place balls close together. Start at the base of the "tree" and use 6 balls for the first row, 5 for the second row, 4 for the third, and so on until you have one ball for the last row, or top of the "tree". Shape remaining small piece of dough into a rectangle. Place just beneath 3rd and 4th balls of first row to make "trunk" of tree.

Repeat with second half of dough.

Brush tops of trees with soft butter or margarine. Cover. Let rise in warm place free from draft until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. (mod). In small saucepan, combine and bring to boil the 6 tablespoons sugar, honey and the 3 tablespoons butter or margarine. Brush tops of risen "trees" with about half of this hot honey glaze. Bake in preheated oven 30 to 35 minutes.

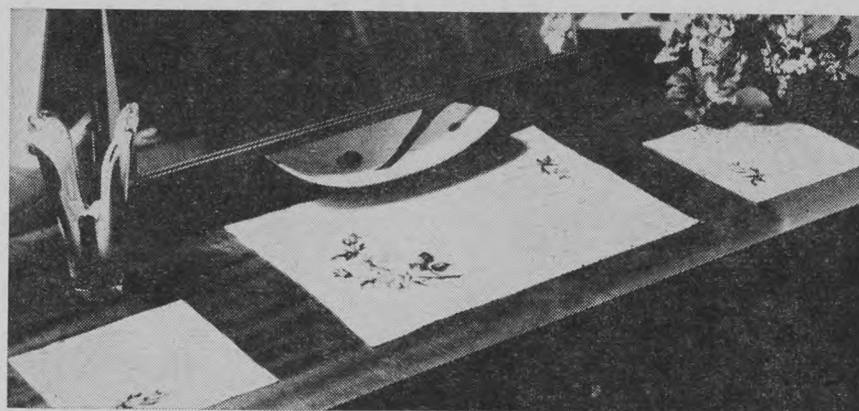
Let stand about 5 minutes, then lift onto cooling racks. Brush with remaining honey glaze. If desired, decorate while glaze is still warm, by sprinkling with green sugar crystals or "non-pareils" (tiny multicolored decorating candies).

Note: If less "sticky" buns are preferred, honey glaze recipe may be cut in half and glaze used only before baking.



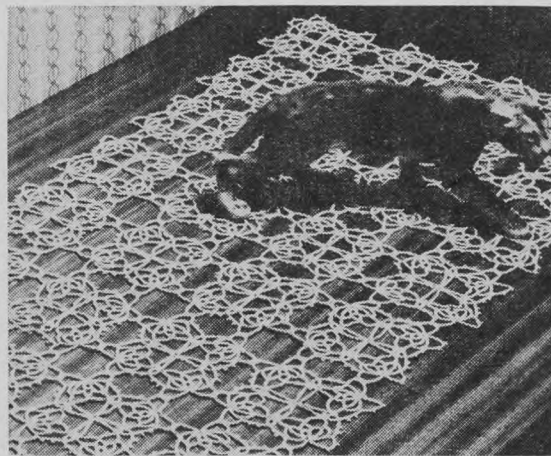
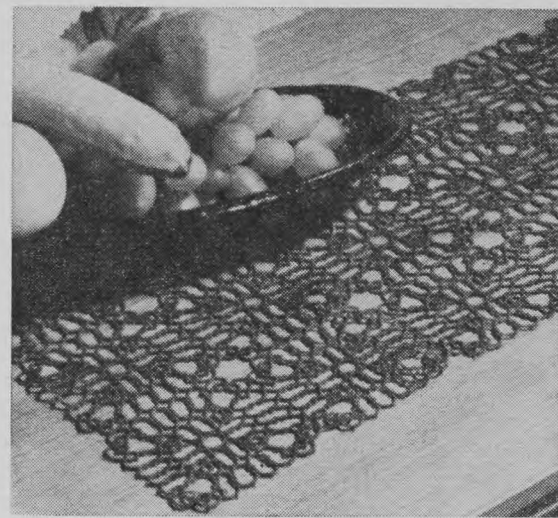
HANDICRAFTS

Cheval Sets and Runners

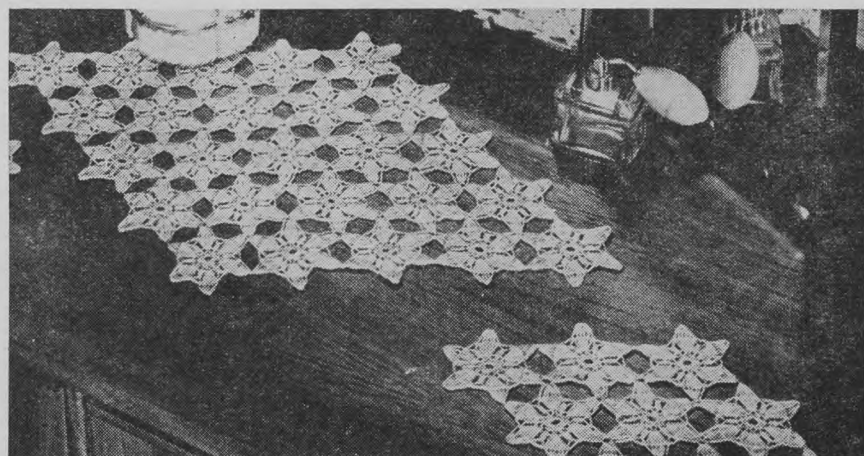


Four colors and 5 stitches are used to embroider the rose motif on this cheval set. Order Leaflet No. E-7499, 10¢, for tracing drawing and instructions.

Tatted from instructions on Leaflet No. T-8085, 10¢, this handsome runner measures 10½" by 28". It's formed by tatted 3 rows of 8 motifs, each measuring 3½" square.



Leaflet No. T-7650, 10¢, gives tating instructions for this lacy sideboard runner. Four rows of nine 3" square motifs make up the 12" by 27" runner.



A flower motif is used for this diamond-shaped, crocheted cheval set. Center mat measures 10½" x 17½"; small mats 6¼" by 9½". Leaflet No. C-8231; 10¢.

For handicraft patterns pictured above please address your order to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man.

Give Foods a Flavor Break with Coffee

NEED a moment free from the season's happy hustling? Call a coffee break—and partner the fragrant beverage with a snack that echoes the coffee flavor. Milk-drinking members of your family will enjoy Coffee Crumb Cake and Mocha Brownie Bars too.

Subtle coffee flavor-interest is repeated in slim squares of crisp Card Gingerbread, just right to welcome in the tree-cutters, carollers or outdoor sporting crowd. With it, serve a cold weather treat in cream-topped cups of Hot Mocha Java—a blend of strong coffee and cocoa.

Festive fellowship with friends warrants something special too. Express your pleasure in their company by serving a frosty Mocha Nut Tortoni, creamy Coffee Ice Cream, Mocha Layer Cake or Tom Thumb Tarts. Near the mistletoe, you might place a plate of Coffee Coconut Kisses!

Mocha Brownie Bars

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1½ c. sifted cake flour | 3 oz. unsweetened chocolate |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 2 T. instant coffee |
| 1 tsp. salt | 4 eggs, well beaten |
| ¾ c. butter or shortening | 1 c. chopped walnuts |
| 2 c. sugar | |

Preheat oven to moderate temperature of 350°F. Grease a 13" by 9" by 2" baking pan.

Measure sifted cake flour into sifter. Add baking powder and salt and sift together. Melt butter and chocolate together over hot water. Blend in coffee. Beat eggs well, add sugar gradually and beat thoroughly. Blend in chocolate mixture; add flour and mix well. Stir in nuts.

Bake in greased baking pan in preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool in pan, then cut in bars. Yields about 3 dozen bars.

Old-Fashioned Card Gingerbread

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ½ c. butter | 1½ tsp. ginger |
| ½ c. brown sugar, firmly packed | ½ tsp. cinnamon |
| 1 egg, well beaten | ¾ tsp. salt |
| ½ c. table molasses | ½ tsp. baking soda |
| 1¾ c. sifted pastry flour | 1 T. sugar |
| | 1 tsp. instant coffee |

Preheat oven to a moderate temperature of 350°F. Grease a cookie sheet.

Cream butter to the consistency of mayonnaise. Beat in sugar and continue to beat until fluffy. Stir in egg and molasses. Mix and sift the flour, spices, salt and baking soda together. Stir dry ingredients gradually into creamed mixture. Chill dough, then roll ¼" thick on a lightly floured board. Place on greased cookie sheet. Combine sugar and instant coffee and sprinkle over dough. Bake in preheated oven at 350°F. for 20 minutes. Cut in squares to serve.

Hot Mocha Java

Combine equal amounts of hot, strong coffee and hot cocoa. Sweeten to taste



Outdoor type and hearth-hugger alike enjoy Card Gingerbread and Mocha Java.

and pour into serving cups. Top each serving with whipped cream and sprinkle with cinnamon.

Tom Thumb Tarts

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastry | 1 c. butter |
| Two 3-oz. pkg. cream cheese | 2 c. sifted pastry flour |

Preheat oven to moderate temperature of 350°F. Soften butter at room temperature. Add cream cheese; beat until smooth and creamy. Add flour ½ cup at a time, blending well after each addition. Work with fingers to a smooth dough. Shape into balls about ½" in diameter. Place each ball in cup of small muffin pan and press with thumb to line bottom and sides easily.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Filling | 2 T. melted butter |
| 2 eggs | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1½ c. brown sugar | ¾ c. coarsely broken pecans |
| 1 T. instant coffee | |
| Few grains salt | |

Beat eggs with a fork just enough to blend the yolks and whites. Combine sugar, instant coffee and salt; add gradually to eggs, beating well after each addition. Add melted butter and vanilla. Sprinkle pecans in pastry cup. Spoon filling over pecans, filling cups not quite to tops. Bake in preheated oven at 350°F. for 20 minutes or until set. Yields about 2 dozen tarts.

Coffee Crumb Cake

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2¾ c. sifted all-purpose flour or 3¼ c. sifted pastry flour | ¾ c. chilled shortening |
| 1½ c. sugar | 2 eggs, well beaten |
| 4 tsp. baking powder | 1¼ c. cold water |
| 2 tsp. salt | 2 tsp. instant coffee |
| 1 tsp. nutmeg | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon | ¾ c. finely chopped nuts |

Preheat oven to a moderate temperature of 350°F. Grease a 9" square cake pan. (If glass ovenware is to be used, reduce oven temperature to moderately slow temperature of 325°F.)

Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and spices together into a large bowl. Using a pastry blender, cut in shortening until mixture resembles corn meal. Reserve

¾ cup of this crumb mixture for top of cake.

Dissolve the instant coffee in the cold water; add to beaten eggs. Blend in vanilla and add to the crumb mixture in the bowl. Mix lightly until combined. Pour into the prepared baking pan.

Add chopped nuts to reserved crumb topping, and sprinkle evenly on top of cake. Bake in preheated oven for 45 to 55 minutes, or until cake tests done in center. Serve warm or cold, cut in squares or fingers.

Coffee Coconut Kisses

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 egg whites | 1 c. shredded coconut |
| ¼ tsp. salt | |
| 1 T. instant coffee | ¼ tsp. vanilla |
| ½ c. sugar | |

Preheat oven to a slow temperature of 250°F. Grease cookie sheet.

Beat egg whites with salt until foamy. Combine instant coffee and sugar and add gradually to egg whites, beating after each addition until sugar is blended. Continue beating until mixture will stand in peaks. Fold in coconut and vanilla. Drop from a teaspoon on a well-greased cookie sheet and bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until done. Yields about 30 cookies.

Coffee Ice Cream

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 c. milk | 15 large marshmallows |
| 1½ T. instant coffee | ¼ tsp. salt |
| 1 egg, slightly beaten | ½ tsp. vanilla |
| 2 T. corn syrup | 1¼ c. whipping cream |

Scald milk and instant coffee together in the top of a double boiler over boiling water. Slowly stir the hot mixture into the slightly beaten egg; stir back into top of double boiler and cook, stirring constantly, until the custard will coat a metal spoon (about 2 minutes).

Add corn syrup and marshmallows and stir until marshmallows are softened, then beat with electric mixer set at a low speed or with a hand rotary beater until marshmallows are completely melted. Stir in salt and vanilla. Cool thoroughly.

Beat cream until softly stiff; fold into coffee mixture until completely blended.

by GWEN LESLIE
Food Editor

Spoon mixture into freezer trays and freeze to a firm mush.

Turn ice cream out into a chilled bowl and beat with electric mixer or hand rotary beater until smooth, but not melted. Return to freezer trays and freeze until firm. Yields about 6 servings.

Mocha Nut Tortoni

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 egg whites | 2 T. instant coffee |
| ½ c. sugar | 2 tsp. vanilla |
| 2 c. whipping cream | ½ c. semi-sweet chocolate pieces |
| 2 egg yolks, slightly beaten | ½ c. minced toasted almonds |

One week before you wish to serve this, beat the egg whites until quite stiff, then gradually add ¼ cup of the sugar while beating to stiff meringue. Whip the cream; add remaining ¼ cup sugar and the instant coffee. Add egg yolks and vanilla. Fold this mixture into the beaten egg whites.

Melt chocolate over hot (not boiling) water. Cool slightly, then quickly fold chocolate and almonds into egg-white mixture. Spoon into 12 custard cups or sixteen 2-oz. paper souffle cups. Freeze until firm; then freezer wrap and freeze if longer storage is desired. Yields 12 to 16 servings.

Mocha Layer Cake

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1½ c. sifted all-purpose flour or 1¾ c. sifted pastry flour | ½ c. cocoa |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 2 T. instant coffee |
| ½ tsp. baking soda | ¾ c. cooking oil |
| 1½ c. sugar | 1 c. buttermilk |
| | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| | 2 eggs |

Line the bottom of two ungreased 8" round layer cake pans with waxed paper. Preheat the oven to a moderate temperature of 350°F.

Sift together twice, then sift the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cocoa and instant coffee into a bowl. Make a well in the dry ingredients and add the oil, buttermilk and vanilla. Blend together, then beat batter until smooth. Beat eggs until thick and light. Gradually add the sugar, beating well after each addition. Add to batter and fold in lightly but completely. Turn the thin batter into the prepared baking pans. Bake in the preheated oven at 350°F. for 35 to 40 minutes. Stand cakes in their pans on wire racks for 10 minutes. Loosen cake edges, turn out on wire racks, peel off paper and allow cakes to cool completely. Fill and frost cakes with Coffee 7-Minute Frosting.

Coffee 7-Minute Frosting

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 egg white | 1 c. lightly-packed brown sugar |
| ¼ c. cold water | |
| 1 T. instant coffee | ½ tsp. vanilla |

Combine egg white, water, instant coffee and brown sugar in top of a double boiler. Place over boiling water and beat with a hand rotary beater for about 7 minutes, or with an electric mixer set at high speed beat until frosting stands in peaks. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Beat until frosting is of spreading consistency. Yields enough frosting to fill and cover an 8" round 2-layer cake.

Just Two at the Table

by GWEN LESLIE

Home Editor

"THREE generations of the same family have lived here," Bernice McSheffrey said.

"The fourth comes back to visit." Now that all five of their children are grown and away, she and John are alone again on their 200-acre farm in Quebec's Gatineau County. Of their two girls and three boys, not one wanted to stay with the farm.

When their youngest son left to work in Ottawa 3½ years ago, his going marked the end of busy years of child-rearing.

"It was hard when the children were gone," Mrs. McSheffrey admits. "There were days when I could have cried. But you don't, of course, and you get used to it." In her own words, she and John have "worked out a very satisfactory way of life."

Lacking the boys' help, John changed to beef cattle from mixed farming centered on a dairy herd. During slack periods he takes off-farm employment as a carpenter. Looking back over the years, there is little he would change.

Of their community at Venosta in the scenic Gatineau Hills, he says "It's a wonderful area and a wonderful place for neighbors. Why, we still have barn raisings!"

Bernice seconds her husband's words in a stanza from her poem "The Gatineau Hills":

*"Where every man is your neighbor
And we ask no creed or name
Where the fun of life is living
And we need not wealth or fame."*

And with a touch of the Irish brogue which early settlers brought to the area, John adds, "This is about as fine a place as ever you

lived; and I'd love to live it all over again."

Nonetheless, the McSheffreys live in the present rather than the past. A writer of verse herself, Bernice likes the sentiment of another, who said of later years "Tomorrow, again, I begin."

She adds a prescription born of her own experiences: "If you are lonely, don't stay in a rut. Reach out . . . do interesting things . . . live every day to the fullest." A heart attack several years ago caused Mrs. McSheffrey to place a special value on each day. Among the interesting things which fill her days, she numbers a growing coin collection, stamp collecting, a lively correspondence as a pen pal club member, verse-writing, and her major hobby—reading.

"I just wish I had two sets of eyes so I could read twice as much," she says with characteristic enthusiasm.

BERNICE penned some of her philosophy on life's later years for us under the heading "The Sunset Years."

"If you have been blessed with length of days, you are fortunate indeed. If you have retained a clear mind and fair health you are more fortunate. Those who have cultivated the life-long habit of cheerfulness and optimism are blessed above all.

"There are some older individuals who seem to give the impression that the only way to endure old age is to wait patiently with folded hands and sad countenance for the end.

"To be aged can mean to have
(Please turn to page 39)



The departure of their grown family from the farm left John and Bernice McSheffrey alone again in an "empty nest" — just two sit at their table now.

[Guide photo]

THE COUNTRY GUIDE



**HOT QUAKER OATS
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No. 6426. A complete layette for baby offers a long dress and cap; short dress; long wrapper; sacque; nightgown with ties at bottom, at neck and wrists; long and short slips; booties and bib. Embroidery transfer included. Price 60¢.



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No. 2930. A one-pattern maternity wardrobe features a jacket; ¾-sleeved overblouse with Johnny collar; street-length or long skirt; sleeveless coat with patch pockets; and long slim pants. Miss sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18; 85¢.

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YOUNG PEOPLE

*It's good manners and a good habit to cultivate—
Write your Christmas thank-you's promptly!*

Now I Take My Pen in Hand

by KAY LAMBERT

"OH what a lovely sweater!" you gasp as you open the parcel. "I must write and thank Aunt Margaret right away!"

A-ha, but do you? Or do the days slip by while you mutter: "Oh, I hate to write letters!" or "I'll do it tomorrow." Such phrases are often heard in homes where teenagers dwell.

Every student, from the earliest grades, knows how a letter should be written, but it is just a case of doing it, isn't it? Some people may be born letter writers but most of us have to cultivate the talent.

Let us suppose it is your birthday, or Christmas, and you have received four or five gifts by mail and must stumble through this many letters. Horrid thought? Well, take heart! The hardest part is getting started, just as the first jump out of bed is the most difficult part of getting up.

To simplify things, gather up your writing materials and address and stamp all your envelopes. Start immediately on the first note: "Dear Aunt Margaret, Thank you for the lovely sweater. I did so want one just that shade of blue." So far it's plain sailing, but now you must cogitate a few moments and add a personal item or two. This seems a difficult task for teenagers. When it comes to setting down an event in writing the incident loses its lustre: it becomes dull and dry and the effort to describe it out of proportion to the interest it may hold for the recipient.

Actually your friends and relatives are interested in your activities. They will be pleased to hear of a special event in school; news of a recent visitor to your home; if you have achieved a certain award; about your hockey team, or young people's outings. Run over a number of things in your mind, and pick out two or three to add to Aunt Margaret's letter. There! Doesn't that feel good? But don't stop now! "Dear Uncle Tom, Thank you for the useful pen and pencil set. Having just lost my favorite pen, I was overjoyed to receive this." Finish off this note with a few personal items and start the third. I'm sure you will be only a short time filling your envelopes!

Another type of thank-you note all teenagers must write at some time is the so-called "bread-and-butter" letter. It should be sent to your hostess within a few days of your return home from a visit with friends or relatives. A point to remember here is that even if the invitation came from the son or daughter of the household, you should write to

his or her mother. You might mention several things you particularly enjoyed — perhaps a special menu, an outing, meeting their friends. Most families make special plans to entertain a guest and are pleased when these efforts are appreciated.

Do you find "friendly" letters difficult to compose too? They also need a determined start. A friendly letter should be natural and informal. If your friend is visiting you, what would you chat about? Write as you would talk to him, and don't stop to consider the number of words involved in describing such things as the hi-jinks at the toboggan party last night. Just start in and do it! You'll probably find yourself writing "the second time down we lost control of our toboggan and bumped into Alex's crew—what a shambles! Everyone in the snow, laughing hilariously while the two toboggans went careening madly down the

long slope by themselves. After that everything seemed funny and when Bill, etc., etc." They may not be world-shaking but incidents such as this make your letter come alive.

Evidently envelopes can convey messages of importance too. For example, stamps placed sideways or diagonally may have a special meaning to some people, but this is not good postal etiquette. New additions to the list of cryptic initials printed on the back, are in vogue. Besides the old one SWAK (sealed with a kiss) we hear of DDDD (D'liver D'letter D'sooner D'better) and AAAAAA (Anxiously Awaiting An Answer As Always). Probably postal clerks find OBR, RBA, ABL (Open Before Reading, Read Before Answering, Answer Before Long) equally intriguing.

So, off you go to the mail box with all those letters you've written. You'll be happy to see them on their

way. It's a two-fold pleasure: there's the satisfaction that you made the effort to write them, and the pleasure of anticipating the letters to come in reply!

You and Your World

Youth of All Nations, Inc. (YOAN) is a pen-friend organization. Its headquarters is in New York; its members all over the world. Its purpose is to help young people understand nations and cultures other than their own—through the medium available to most people—the personal letter.

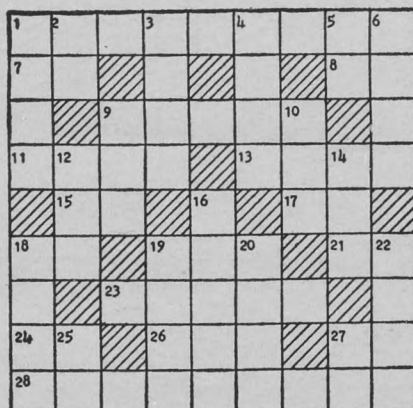
YOAN is an independent, non-profit, non-sectarian membership organization, declared by the U.S. Treasury to be "operated exclusively for educational purposes" with its own publication "Mirror for Youth."

Members' ages range from 14 to 24. For further information write: Youth of All Nations, Inc., 16 St. Luke's Place, New York 14, New York, U.S.A.



Christmas Crossword

by JEAN GILCHRIST



Across:

1. December 25.
7. Old English (abbr.).
8. Myself.
9. Heavenly being.
11. Organs of hearing.
13. Part of sailboat.

15. Great (abbr.).
17. Old form of "you."
18. Leave.
19. Baseball stick.
21. At that place.
23. Jolly.
24. Like.
26. Part of foot.
27. Mother.
28. Place of Jesus' birth.

Down:

1. Approach.
2. Him.
3. Small hotels.
4. Those people.
5. Morning.
6. Chair.
9. Painting.
10. Set down.
12. Past.
14. Ocean.
16. Christmas hymn.
18. Snatch.

Winter Butterflies

*In winter when the trees are bare
And snowflakes dance on icy air,
We gather 'round the fire and play
That we're magicians, bold and gay.*

*The kernels of the corn we pop
Look like cocoons, and as they hop
And jump about, we close our eyes,
Demanding: "Change to butterflies!"*

*Then, when the kernels burst and
white
Wings spread, we bow to left and
right,
As popcorn butterflies play games
Above the flowers of the flames!*

—FRANCES GORMAN RISSE

* * * * *

19. Girl's name.
20. Common Christmas sight.
22. Group of players.
25. Southeast.
27. Myself.

Answers

Across: 1. Christmas; 7. OE; 8. Me; 9. Angel; 11. East; 13. Mast; 15. CT; 17. Ye; 18. Go; 19. Bat; 21. At; 23. Merry; 24. As; 26. Toe; 27. Ma; 28. Bethlehem.
Down: 1. Come; 2. He; 3. Inns; 4. Them; 5. AM; 6. Seat; 9. Art; 10. Lay; 12. Ago; 14. Sea; 16. Carol; 18. Grab; 19. Beth; 20. Tree; 22. Team; 25. SE; 27. Me.

THE COUNTRY GUIDE



*Children in special classes can learn
to convert simple materials into useful articles*

Shopping at the School

by **ELVA FLETCHER**
Home Editor

[Guide photos]
Quiet-spoken, motherly Christine Meikle
heads the School she helped to establish.

THIS year, thanks to The Guide's Western editor, Cliff Faulknor, I made an early start on my Christmas shopping. The reason: Cliff introduced me to Calgary's Christine Meikle School and Activity Center for the Retarded.

There are similar schools in other parts of Canada. The children who attend them learn slowly. Sometimes they learn only simple things. For example, they learn how to use a needle, to hook a rug, to follow a pattern. To achieve even these few skills they need the love, patience and devotion of parents, teachers and people at large.

When I visited the Christine Meikle School in October there were already signs of Christmas in classrooms, corridor showcases and storage rooms.

In one classroom students were busy making centerpieces for Christmas tables, wreaths and tree orna-

ments. Rows of red felt stockings sparkled with beads and sequins. There were miniature wishing wells made of mosaic and pine cones. The cones, I learned, came from friends who visit Alberta mountain sides.

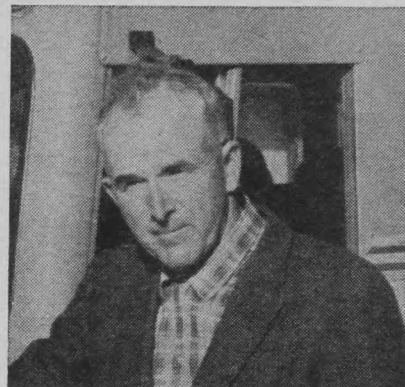
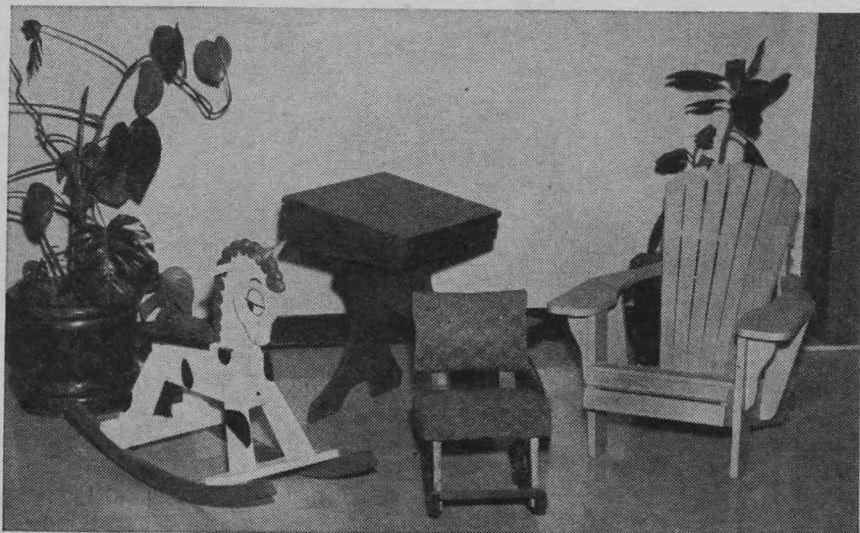
My own shopping began when I saw the School's "stained glass" candlesticks. When the candle inside is lit, they somehow remind one of the lighted windows of church at Christmas time. They are simply made: the girls glue fragments of colored glass to the outside surface of a clear glass container. When this surface is dry the candle is added.

In another workroom boys had begun to assemble children's rocking chairs. They turn out other items too—wooden garden chairs for both adults and children, children's desks and table and chair sets. The boys also make attractive wooden salad bowls and sandwich trays.

While most of the children come from city homes there is a sprinkling of country youngsters who board with city families. They go to school from Monday to Friday and then return to their homes for week ends.

Cliff also introduced me to Frank Thomas and Christine Meikle. Frank farms at Langdon, Alta., but he and his family live in Calgary 25 miles away. The Meikle family farmed before they became city dwellers

Saddle blankets made at the School are popular. This one carried the Circle 5 brand. Below are a few examples of the children's furniture produced in the School workshop.



Frank Thomas arranges his farm work to permit him to serve the School as a relief bus driver.

some years ago. Frank Thomas and Christine Meikle have a mutual interest. Both of them, you see, have children enrolled at the school.

"Something had to be done for the retarded children," Christine Meikle says. "Our boy needed help. So did other children in the community. And after I'd talked with other parents we decided to call a general meeting. About 40 people came."

WITH their support the School got its start — in Mrs. Meikle's dining room. That was 11 years ago. "We had six pupils then," Christine says. "We soon outgrew the dining room and we had classes in a series of church buildings. When we outgrew them the Junior League House took us in." When the Alberta Government and two Calgary school boards added their support, some of Calgary's retarded children got the first school of its kind in Canada.

Today's school has an enrollment of 185. It spreads over the better part of a city block a short distance from the tree-lined bank of the Bow River in northeast Calgary. Its most recent addition — an activity center for older children—opened this year. But there's also a need for a similar school in the city's southwest.

The school is staffed by volunteers plus a paid staff of 22 teachers, a speech therapist, a consulting psychologist, office workers, maintenance and bus drivers. Frank Thomas is one of the School's spare drivers; Mrs. Meikle its principal.

It is financed by grants from the Alberta Government, from Calgary's public and separate school boards,

service clubs and other associations, and by gifts from its friends. There is another source of revenue: the sale of the articles made by the students.

Many of these are sold at the School's annual pre-Christmas tea at prices ranging from 50¢ to \$30. Some are sold by mail orders; some are made to order. For example, the School fills many orders for hand-woven saddle blankets with ranch brands worked into their corners. As for my candlesticks, somehow they represent the spirit of giving that brought the School into being. And that's probably the reason I felt an inner satisfaction when I started my Christmas shopping at Christine Meikle's School. V

JUST TWO AT THE TABLE *(Continued from page 36)*

gathered rich memories, to have gained wisdom and experience throughout the years. To most older people it will also mean that the declining years may bring problems and sorrows, and perhaps separation from a loved one or a family unit.

"However, they will also bring the consolation that less will be expected of them in many ways.

"This part of life sometimes referred to as 'The Sunset Years' need not be dull or boring or gloomy if over the years you have acquired an interesting hobby or cultivated a taste for good reading and music; if you have kept contact with good friends and made new ones; if you enjoy writing a letter to a relative and relatives' visits. Keeping interested in current affairs will stimulate the mind and make you better company for other people, too.

"Don't take yourself too seriously. Try to handle problems lightly. Inject laughter into tense situations. Keep cheerful. Old age can be wonderful if you make it so."

Bernice and John McSheffrey have already begun again, in the phase of family life which sociologists call the "empty nest." Life, as they point out, is very full when you have grandchildren to love as well. The six grandchildren who come to visit them promise to keep them young for many years yet. V

(Continued from page 16)

BULLS OR STEERS FOR THE FEEDLOT?

After these trials, Dr. Berg noted that carcasses from the year-old bulls did not differ in any quality measures from steers.

He concluded that feeding bulls to market at a year of age shows much promise. It seems to offer cattlemen a chance to produce beef at lower cost, and to produce high quality carcasses, which are slightly meatier.

He adds, "If bulls are kept much longer than a year old, masculine development may result in reduced returns."

It's one thing to feed bulls experimentally, but something else again to feed them profitably. On this count, the government grading service has taken another look at the way they grade bulls. A few weeks ago, all graders were sent further instructions on grading bulls. The gist of those instructions was this: Graders should look at each carcass on its own merits. They should not grade an animal down just because it is a bull. The instructions noted that as the degree of staginess of an animal increased, the flesh color darkens. Choice beef is bright cherry red. In staggy bulls, the texture becomes coarse and sinewy and the flesh lacks firmness. This can be seen in the rib cross-section.

If the bull puts up a good, youthful high quality carcass, graders were advised to grade it accordingly in choice or other appropriate grades. But, if it doesn't, then the carcass should go into "Canada Bull."

The experience of the researchers is being borne out in some feedlots too. Murray Jack, of Kent County, Ont., has fed out a few bulls on corn silage and high moisture grain corn for the past two winters with good results. He even fed Holstein bulls, in the same pen as Holstein steers. The bulls made rapid gains, sold at a substantial margin over purchase price, and as far as he could tell, made a beef grade along with the other steers, rather than being put into "bull" category.

One feeder had a less happy experience. He fed out 150 Holstein bulls last winter. The bulls were bought for him by a drover. They weighed anywhere from 300 to 1,000

pounds when they came to the feedlot, where they were fed a variety of feeds including haylage, hay and corn silage.

His results were disappointing. The trouble was that there was too much variation in the size of the bulls. Bulls were continually being added to the lot, and others taken out too, and this left them unsettled and restless. Gains were sometimes poor.

"If we had the right feed, could sort the bulls into smaller lots and keep each lot intact through the feeding period, it would probably work out," he said. "For they can make phenomenal growth, and there is a big market for them."

He sold the bulls as bologna animals, making a 3-cent margin over purchase cost.

It's too early to say yet whether there will be a rapid swing to bulls in the feedlot. There are plenty of problems that go with handling them. But it is safe to say that a lot of people will be giving it more thought, in the light of recent developments. ✓

REPORT FROM OTTAWA . . .

(Continued from page 10)

competition, Canadian wheat still commands a premium price.

It would not benefit Canada to cut its price. Other countries would cut their prices at the same time.

Dutch and Belgian-grown wheat has a very high moisture content. French wheat won't bring this up to good bread quality. For this, Canadian wheat holds the edge. Holland has bought lower quality Russian wheat. The Russian competition, however, is not considered serious, even if the Russians are endeavoring to eliminate some of their poorer wheat and improve wheat quality.

Canadian wheat producers will be less affected in Europe than in any other country. At the same time, Common Market protective "variable levies" will have to be watched.

On top of these various factors comes the Canadian pledge to in-

crease foreign aid in the form of wheat. The eventual amount will total \$40,000,000 a year. During the current year, not much more than the aid levels of the past few years will be reached. The real increase may come in from 3 to 5 years' time.

Eventually, the under-developed countries could become commercial

markets. This is the theory, at any rate. But it might be 25 years from now. Nonetheless, the farmer is paid for gift wheat just as for any other he delivers.

All of this means an expanded wheat export of good but indefinite proportions, a major historical event in Canadian agriculture. ✓

What's Happening

(Continued from page 7)

motion and advertising program for beef. Agreement on this need was expressed in a joint statement issued following a meeting of the Council of Canadian Beef Producers, the Meat Packers Council of Canada, and the Ontario Beef Cattle Improvement Association. ✓

WHEAT QUALITY HIGH

For the seventh consecutive year, Western Canada's red spring wheat crop is above average in milling and baking quality. The Board of Grain Commissioners reports that over 80 per cent of the new crop will grade No. 2 and No. 3 Northern. Average protein content is 14.3 per cent which is the third highest on record. It is .4 per cent higher than last year and .7 per cent higher than the long-term average of 13.6 per cent. ✓

WHERE TO BORROW

Low income and small farmers of Eastern Canada borrow proportionately more from finance companies than do bigger farm operators, despite the fact that they are less able to pay the higher interest rates charged. This is the inference drawn from a survey of a number of low-income farmers recently conducted for the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Administration. ✓

CASH PAYMENTS TO HOGMEN

A premium of \$35 will be paid to farmers by the Saskatchewan De-

partment of Agriculture for each bred gilt and sow they purchase this winter. The new policy is designed to encourage expansion of the swine industry in the province.

Farmers must make purchases between November 1 and March 31, and must provide receipts and applications before the latter date. They may purchase from 2 to 20 hogs and qualify for aid, providing the total number of farrowing sows will be increased over 1963. Producers wishing to receive assistance cannot sell sows and gilts between November 1, 1963, and July 1, 1964. ✓

THREE MINISTERS

The Globe and Mail reports as follows:

"The Government survived two votes of non-confidence in the Commons recently, following debate on agriculture. Missing for both votes were Agriculture Minister Harry Hays and Mr. Rene Tremblay, Minister without Portfolio, who is to become Agriculture Minister for Eastern Canada when that position is created.

"Perhaps there should be a third Agriculture Minister, not in the East and not in the West, but in the House of Commons." ✓

PINTO HORSE RECOGNIZED

The recently formed Canadian Pinto Horse Association is now negotiating for recognition with the Canadian National Livestock Records in Ottawa. ✓



[Herb Nott photo]

Former Guide editor Lorne Hurd won two Awards of Merit for pieces that appeared in The Guide during the past year. In the annual Canadian Farm Writers' Awards competition, his entries led the field in both the Press Editorial section, and the Press Reporting section. His award-winning editorial appeared in our March 1963 issue, under the title "Flies in the Ointment." His report on the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference of last year which was carried in our December 1962 issue, under the title "Your Stake in Farm Policy," won in the Press Reporting section. In the picture above, Hurd (left), receives his award from Beaverton, Ont., dairy farmer, George McLaughlin.



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NERVE
FATIGUE"**

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What Farm Organizations Are Doing

WHEAT STOCKS NATIONAL ASSET

Large stocks of wheat are now seen in their true light as an important national asset instead of a taxpayers' burden. This was the message A. M. Runciman, president of United Grain Growers Ltd., gave the annual meeting of the Company in Edmonton.

Mr. Runciman said that wheat storage is a productive function and not a wealth-consuming activity. Rising prices confirm that revenue from such storage is to a considerable extent provided not by producers but by the buyers of grain. Storage constitutes an addition to, and not a deduction from, the national income.

Net earnings of \$400,528 for the year were reported by the farm co-operative compared to earnings of the previous year of \$257,800. Appropriation for patronage dividends was \$1,025,000 compared with \$650,000 in 1962.

Mr. Runciman stated that the chief problems facing the Board of Directors concerned branch line abandonment and development of plans for the further expansion of subsidiary operations.

Resolutions passed included: (1) A request that the federal government allow farmers to deliver grain on a deferred settlement basis for income tax purposes. (2) A demand that baler twine carry guaranteed specifications. A resolution which called for a two-price system for wheat was defeated.

In addressing the meeting, W. E. Robertson, Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, noted that oats and barley have not been moving in export channels in the volume that he would like to see. However, he predicted a sound long-term outlook for these two crops because of the outlook for increased beef, hog and poultry feeding.

HOPE FOR UNITY IN ONTARIO

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture wants a united voice for farmers. At its annual meeting, it resolved to continue to seek for ways of bringing the different farm organizations together within the province.

An illustration of this is the case of James Bentley, the recently elected president of the CFA. He is a dues-paying member of the Alberta Farmers Union and also a member of both co-operatives and commodity groups. Bentley has pledged to work with provincial organizations, in an attempt to improve communications and bring farm organizations closer together.

"No one," he told me, "is suggesting that the Farmers Union would be swallowed up. In Alberta, strength is not dissipated in feuding. We have to pool our efforts.

"We at the CFA are prepared to make concessions. To take a rigid stand merely stiffens the resistance

of the very people you wish to work with. In my view farmers want a national voice for agriculture and they are getting impatient with the lack of progress." Bentley points to the key factors affecting unity:

- Provincial and Federal governments will respect the voice of the farmer to an even greater degree.
- The very diversity of farming in Canada emphasizes the need.
- With the trend to fewer farms, farmers can become weaker numerically and politically.
- Better financing is required to prove to farmers the job can be done.

Art Musgrave, re-elected for a second year as president of the OFA, called on delegates for "strength, courage and harmony, tempered with common sense, maturity and forbearance. Let us not permit unthinking prejudice or self-seeking design to divide farmer from farmer and farm group from farm group. Our overall interests are identical."

Musgrave made a neat musical analogy: "Unison means that everyone has to sing the same note whereas harmony is a blending of notes. I prefer to settle for harmony—rather than press for unity, and end up with discord."

In the view of Bob Carbert, OFA secretary-manager, "premature unity would mean the formation of dissident splinter groups within 6 months."

THREAT FROM UNLICENSED VARIETIES

The production of unlicensed wheat varieties presents a threat to

Canada's exports. This warning was expressed by F. F. Hamilton, Chief Commissioner of the Board of Grain Commissioners, at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Pool Elevators. He reported that one million bushels of the unlicensed variety, Prairie Pride, were shipped out of Saskatchewan this year. Two or three such varieties were being grown in Manitoba in small quantities, he said.

Delegates were also told that the Co-operative Elevators Associations operating through Manitoba Pool Elevators, handled the largest volume of grain in their history in the crop year 1962-63. According to the directors' annual report, total net earnings were \$2,154,000, compared with \$1,344,000 a year earlier.

In resolutions, the delegates asked: (1) That farmers be permitted to use colored gas in their farm trucks. (2) That a fund be set up by the provincial government to compensate farmers for damage done by wild life and irresponsible hunters to crops, fences and livestock. (3) That the federal government assume that portion of the capital debt the CNR acquired through the acquisition of bankrupt railways, as recommended by the recent Royal Commission on Transportation.

PLAN PRAIRIE HOG BOARDS

The Farmers Unions of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have prepared plans for provincial hog marketing boards which are being presented to their respective governments. They are asking the provincial marketing authorities to present these plans to the hog producers in the three provinces for their approval.

In reporting this development, A. P. Gleave, President of the National Farmers Union, says it is proposed that hog producers of Western Canada join together to co-operate in

getting a fair price for the hogs they produce. Mr. Gleave added that in due course his organization hopes to see a National Hog Marketing Board set up.

TRY NOW—VOTE LATER!

(Continued from page 6)

• Initially the plan would be aimed at promoting eggs rather than negotiating prices. Pricing is not regarded as the most important factor. Research is needed to improve trading practices, eliminate collusion in pricing and to provide a sound basis for sales promotion.

• More than the proposed 24 months' trial period for the plan is likely. At least 1 year would elapse before fees could be collected and a competent technical organization created. Three years is a more probable trial period; even then the vote could be to decide whether to continue the promotional aspects of the plan for 2 or 3 years or to move on to a full negotiating plan.

In light of the rejection by producer votes of several important proposed plans in recent years, failure of yet another cannot be entertained. Current higher egg prices are encouraging rapid expansion, which, coupled with subsequent price declines and a trend toward a reduction in the per capita egg consumption, would create a situation in which promotion would be a welcome crutch for producers.

Another important question still unresolved is that of producer representation. A compromise is likely. Most board members would be elected by the producers while the Farm Products Marketing Board would appoint a smaller group representing (a) the small farm flock, (b) the commercial flock in the 5,000-bird range and (c) the still larger poultry enterprises.

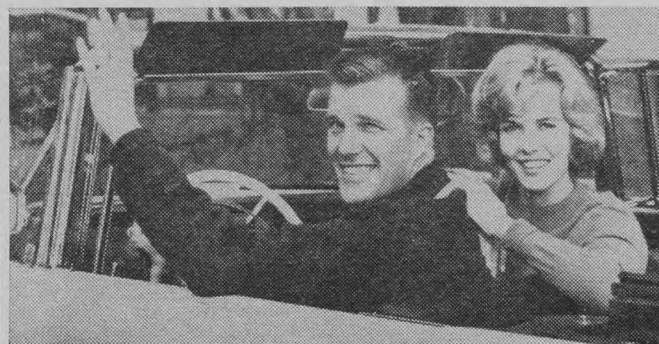
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Letters

By Jove, A Moose!

We welcome decent hunters and people who know how to handle rifles, since they keep the moose thinned out. It is slap-happy drinking shooters who spoil it for everybody. Every fall they descend like a flock of hungry locusts. They are laden down with enough artillery to put Cuba out of business. They call themselves hunters or sportsmen; it is best that I don't say what the farmers call them.

Up farm roads they come, the spotlight on their car slicing through the dark. Suddenly the rump of old Dobbin comes into focus. "Ah, by jove, a moose!" It's lucky for Dobbin that they don't know any more about shooting than they do about hunting for he makes a lumbering getaway while bullets whine over, under, and around him.

Well, the party figures this must be good game country so they head back down the road a half mile to where they pitch their tent. They have good taste in tent locations though. After all, what better place than that nice field of alfalfa? And there certainly is no point in shutting that gate since it would be a nuisance to open again.

Back at camp they decide a drink is in order. One drink soon leads to another. Before long liquor and high old hunting yarns are flowing freely. Soon a game of poker gets underway and dawn begins to tinge the sky.

Suddenly one of the party notices that it is daylight outside. Into the car they pile for a morning's hunting. What was that? Movement? Five rifles open up a fusillade, shattering the early morning stillness. They also shatter the nerves of a farmer, who, while calmly herding his Jerseys home, finds himself in the middle of a hail of lead.

Later that day the tent in the alfalfa field is visited by a farmer with a perforated hat and a shotgun. The tent and hunters soon leave; the only sign of their passing being a patch of flattened alfalfa and a welter of tin cans and broken bottles.

You know, it's really funny how short-tempered farmers are. Why should they get so hostile about a little harmless hunting?

J.H.,
Clemretta, B.C.

Distant Reader

Does it surprise you that the "Country Guide" finds its way to the very southern coastline of New Zealand? A pen friend of mine in Winnipeg posts your paper on to us. Although the type of farming here appears different to most of Canada (mainly sheep and dairy in New Zealand) we find your articles interesting and especially that Weather Forecast! Can you really depend on it?

I'm afraid it might depress us too much here if we knew in advance what to expect! Actually, apart from a small percentage of wheat, we don't grow grain, and the climate

here suits the wool, fat lambs and dairy herds. About 48 million sheep in New Zealand. Nine million in our southern province.

Home and Family Section widely read by our family too, and I've clipped several recipes from "In the Kitchen." Please tell Pete Williams (June issue he bewails margarine) we just never see it in N.Z. Haven't tasted it since war-time. Butter is government-subsidized. It costs us 25 cents per lb.

MRS. C. HEAPHY,
Invercargill,
South Island, N.Z.

Shoot to Kill

May I take up your time and space in regard to "Grounds for Happy Hunting" in your September issue, an article, I think, full of well needed and sensible advice. But why does Mr. Williams mar it by saying that a game bird should be shot on the wing, . . . and that hunters who "ground swat" their birds aren't sportsmen — they're the ones who shoot farmer's animals, and most gun accidents can also be laid at their door.

No one but an ass would make this sweeping statement. It's sheer lunacy to rant in this way.

I take it a hunter shoots to kill, and the quicker the better. Is it unsportsmanlike to kill as humanely as possible? It is easier and surer to kill standing game, than when in flight. I lived 45 years near a narrow of water connecting two large bodies of water, where the wildfowl fly along. I have seen thousands of such shooters blazing away. At most, not 20 per cent of their shots brought down their quarry. The rest (those not either winged or hit in the head) continuing their flight, wounded more or less in their body, possibly to die a long lingering death. Forget this ancient twaddle about giving game a chance. "If you hunt game shoot to kill and as quickly as possible. If not, better stay home."

H.O.J.,
Alberta Beach, Alta.

Wayside Chapel

The little church shown in this picture is situated in the Crow's Nest Pass in southern Alberta adjacent to



Highway No. 3 and is complete with pews to seat 8 persons, recorded hymns and an ever open door.

If a few more travelers would take

time out from their frantic travels to stop and relax at such a wayside chapel our mounting accident toll would be reduced.

A.W.,
Edmonton, Alta.

Liked Settler

Mr. Cliff Faulkner's "The Settler from Stettler" is one of the most delightful magazine stories I have read in a long while.

B.S.P.,
Edmonton, Alta.

Liked Country Church

Recently I have been ill and now comes a time of improvement and thanksgiving.

We have been Country Guide readers for years. Have particularly enjoyed your new column by the Very Rev. M. L. Goodman and now the article "Country Church" in the October issue. Thank you.

This to me is an ideal part of a Christian thinking community.

MRS. L.G.J.,
Flin Flon, Man.



Hi Folks:

You've just finished yelling at your kids for some little thing like setting fire to the barn, and I don't blame you. The little so-and-so's should know better. But have you ever stopped to think what a terrible world this would be without them? While you're at it, you might also consider what it would be like if we had no old folks around either. The two sort of go together—the very old and the very young. Each has something precious to give to the other, and we in-betweens aren't in on the deal at all.

If you doubt this, you should read a book called "Suburbia's Coddled Kids," which is actually a report of how these big new suburban areas on the fringes of large cities affect youngsters growing up in them. Remember, most of these places are complete cities within a city, with their own shopping areas, schools, playgrounds and libraries. All the houses look the same, cost about the same and shelter people who have incomes in about the same range. And room by room inside, most of them look like clippings from some popular home-making magazine.

Kids growing up in these places live in a comfortable vacuum, ill-prepared for the wide variety of people and circumstances they will find on the Outside. In fact, their spare time is so completely organized by grownups they are not left much time just to grow up.

One of the biggest lacks in these new areas, says the book, is that there are no old people living there. Most of suburbia's parents are roughly the same age. You see, old people give youngsters a sense of history—of the continuance of things. And they give them something more. They give them TIME — something we who run in the daily rat race never seem to have to spare.

I remember when my oldest boy was a little toddler. He loved to go and visit his favorite grandmother

who lived only a short distance away. In the kitchen she had an old basket chair which was kept specially for him. They called it the "talking chair." He'd come in, boost himself up into it and sit there with his little legs dangling. Then he'd just talk. He'd talk about things he'd seen and done, and about things which puzzled him in the big, adult world around. She'd listen with patience and understanding and offer advice where asked for, her hands busy all the while peeling potatoes or shelling peas.

His Granny wasn't a "modern" type of granny. She never wasted a lot of money on facial treatments and fancy hairdos, or bought a lot of flashy clothes in an attempt to be "one of the girls." Her face was gentle and lined, and her hair was snow white. Children prefer old folks this way, I think. A little girl, whose grandmother was as up-to-date as tomorrow's news, once said she wished she had a "real granny" like my kids had.

When our Granny died she was laid to rest in front of a gnarled maple tree, her headstone only about 2 feet from its base. A few years later we all paid a visit to her grave; for two of the kids it was the first time they'd been there. As we tramped by with solemn faces and heavy hearts, I couldn't help feeling this was all wrong because Granny wouldn't have wanted the children to feel distressed at the sight of her grave. She liked children to laugh, and to laugh with them.

Seeing the stone so close to the tree, my daughter cried in dismay, "We shouldn't have crammed Granny into such a small space!"

We all laughed at that and somehow we felt better. If Granny heard, we knew she would be laughing too.

That's just one thing the old can teach the young. Death isn't a sinister thing but a part of the normal pattern of life.

Sincerely,
PETE WILLIAMS.

THE COUNTRY GUIDE

Homemakers' Hints

To prevent a rough edge on plain knitting, slip the first stitch of every new row, then purl the second stitch and proceed as the pattern requires. This trick works especially well to give a straight edge to belts. — *Jane Dale, Victoria, B.C.*

If your husband has not yet finished the fence to keep your dog in the yard, fasten on the dogster's baby harness and attach it to the clothesline. The child can walk a short distance from the line and along the length of it, but can't wander off out of sight. — *Mrs. C. W. Morris, Lampman, Sask.*

Keep a piece of sandpaper in the kitchen to help unscrew tight tops on bottles and jars. I find it quicker and neater than using a damp cloth, or inverting the container in hot water. — *Mrs. Ben Tschirren, Ferintosh, Alta.*

We tucked an unsightly scattering of rubbers and overshoes out of sight beneath the last porch step. By putting hinges on the board we were able to raise and lower it easily; the overshoes are hidden but handy. — *Mrs. M. F. T., Victoria, B.C.*

Before throwing any garment in the rag bag, salvage any good buttons, zippers, fasteners, garters, elastic and lace, or other trim, which you can find use for when you sew. — *Mrs. Mildred J., Jackpine, Ont.*

Make it easier to hand down a hand-knit cardigan sweater from boy to girl by knitting buttonholes down both sides of the front. For a small boy, sew a few stitches over the buttonholes on the right side and sew on the buttons. When a little sister grows into the sweater, buttons and buttonholes can easily be reversed. — *Mrs. Fred Carroll, New Westminster, B.C.*

An empty plastic detergent bottle with a snip top is very handy for watering house plants. It's especially good for watering African violets because you can direct the water at the roots without getting the leaves wet. — *Mrs. E. R. Thompson, Strongfield, Sask.*

When I come across an article of interest, or a recipe which I would like to try, I make a note of the name and page number in pencil on the magazine cover. This keeps the magazine intact for others but makes it easy to locate the item again. — *Mrs. H. Snyder, Argyle, Man.*

I made a durable patch-up job on a mattress from an iron-on type of knee patch. To cover two small holes, I cut the patch in two, heated the iron and sealed on the patch pieces. — *Mrs. J. F. Davidson, Marmora, Ont.*



SUCH A FESTIVE CAKE! Rich and colorful with its contrasting fruit, keeps for weeks and cuts easily into neat, bright slices.

CHRISTMAS WREATH CAKE

Line a straight-sided ring pan (9 inches wide, 3 inches deep) with 1 layer of foil or use 3 layers of heavy brown paper, the top layer greased. Wash and dry thoroughly

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Sultana or other light-colored seedless raisins

Prepare

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped pitted dates
1 cup mixed red and green candied or well-drained maraschino cherries, halved

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup finely-diced candied pineapple—red, green and yellow

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup broken pecans
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flaked or cut-up shredded coconut

Sift together into a bowl

$3\frac{1}{2}$ cups once-sifted pastry flour or 3 cups once-sifted all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons Magic Baking Powder

1 teaspoon salt

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground mace

Add prepared fruits and nuts, a few at a time, mixing with finger tips until all fruits are coated with flour.

Cream

1 cup butter

Gradually blend in

$1\frac{1}{4}$ cups fine granulated sugar

Add, one at a time.

4 eggs

beating in well after each addition.

Mix in

1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Add fruit-flour mixture, part at a time, combining well after each addition.

Turn batter into prepared pan and spread evenly. Decorate with candied fruits and nuts. Bake in a slow oven, 300°, $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 hours.

Brush top of hot cake with a mixture of

2 tablespoons corn syrup
1 tablespoon brandy or water

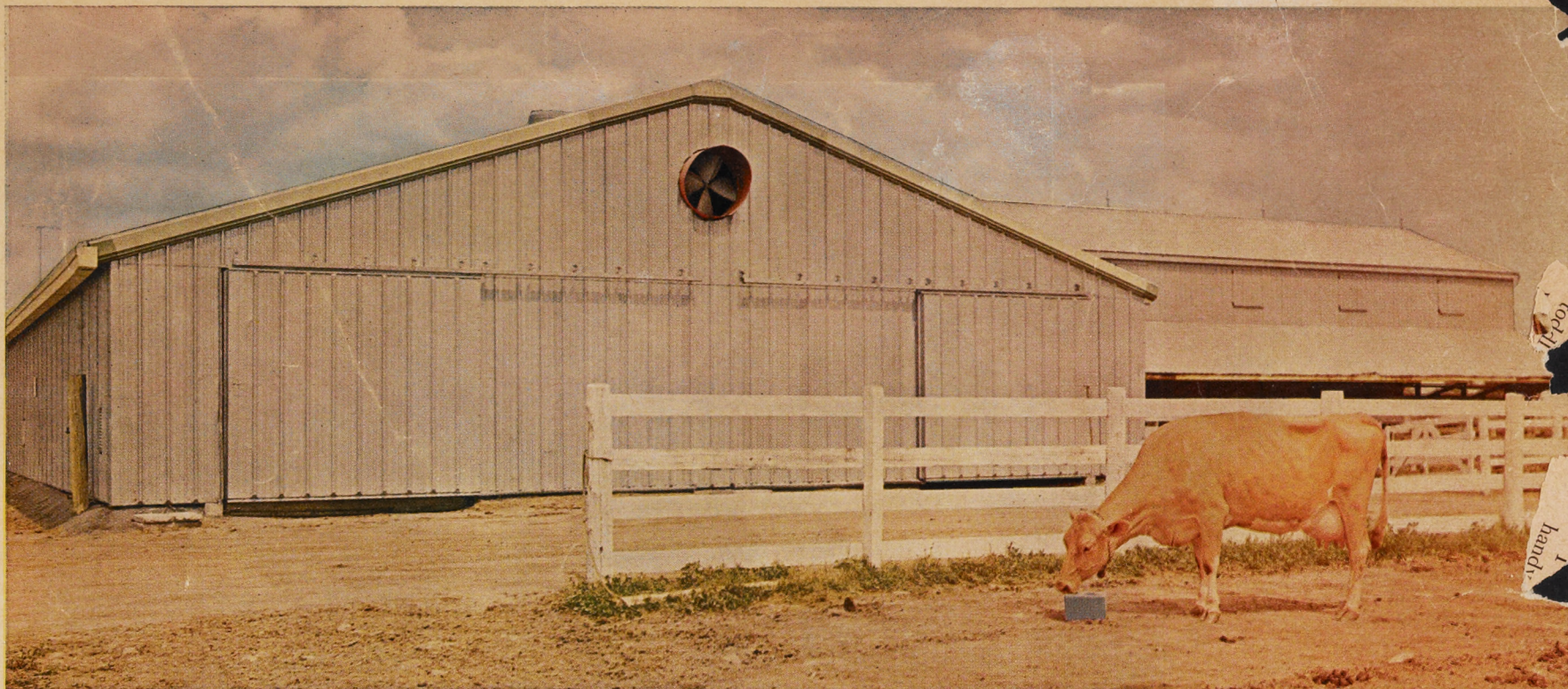
Cool completely, then store in a covered tin or crock.

Yield: One deep ring cake.

Another fine product of
STANDARD BRANDS LIMITED



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